

箕崎准

Misaki Jun

全世界武芸大会(下)

Hundred: World Martial Arts Tournament

8

[hundred]

大熊猫介 (ニトロプラス)

Illustration

GA文庫

Hundred

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(ニトロプラス)



ハンドレッド

全世界武芸大会〈下〉

Hundred : World Martial Arts Tournament

8

[həndrəd]
Hundred : Dual Act







「たとえ教皇様相手でも、
リットガーデン
俺たちは負けるわけにはいかない！」

「あなたにこれを耐えることが
出来るでしょうか？」

セリヴィアが鎌を振り下ろすと同時に、
刃の形状をしたエナジーの塊がハヤトに襲い掛かる。

Prologue

– Karen is chasing a terrorist you say.... Can you tell me where is she? We will head there at once!

Hayato, who heard the information through the PDA, asked Claire with impatience.

– I'll go with Hayato.

– Me too.

Without losing time, Emilia and Latia demonstrated their agreement with Hayato. Their voices were carried to Claire through the PDA of Hayato.

[Understood. I will immediately send you the current location of Kisaragi Karen masuwa. Erika, can Little Garden report to the security headquarters to head towards the capture of the terrorists at the second point?]

[— —As you say]

Karen's <current location> *GPS data* arrived at the PDA of Hayato right after Erika responded.

A five minutes distance by running.

– Let's go

– Yes.

Emilia started running, nodding at the call of Hayato. Latia also started to run after them, but only Fritz didn't move from his place. She became aware of it. And so Latia looked back and asked Fritz.

– What's the matter? Let's quickly go to Karen!

– I'm not going.

– What do you mean with that?

Latia who heard the reply of Fritz asked in astonishment.

– It's fine for you three to go where Karen is. But for a moment like this, I

have piled up special training. I, I'll show you what I'm capable of.

Saying that, Fritz took out the PDA from his pocket and started to call Claire.

[Has something happened, Fritz Grantz?]

– I consider that for a moment like this, I have to do my preparations to snipe the terrorists from a long distance. President, please give me your approval.

[Understood, I will allow it. If it is with your sniping skills, then there is no need to say anything else, so go ahead]

– In short, we have to capture them alive?

[As much as possible. I will leave the decision to you masuwa]

After her, Erika said.

[Fritz Grantz. I have been granted the role of being the support of your sniping. Let me know as soon as you can when a good sniping point is found. For now, please move to point B that I sent to you now]

– Got it, then——. You guys, go fast to where Karen is. The situation is a race against time.

– No matter what happens, don't shoot Karen or us!

– Whoa, who do you think I am? With my ability, I can surely shoot down a falling star. That's why it's a *Shooting Star*.

Fritz responded with a wink, pointing his gun made with fingers to Latia.

– Got it. Let's go, Hayato.

At the same time Latia, Hayato and Emilia started to move.

Karen, who revolved in the air using her Hundred <<Miraculous Sacred Amulet>> *Divine Card*, landed in front of the two terrorists.

– Wh, who, are you!?

Looking at Karen, one of the terrorists turns the knife in his hand while trembling. Subsequently the other guy, a fat man, said to him.

– Aniki*, that, that's Kisaragi Karen.

*TN: Elder brother, one's senior, older man. Used in mafia and criminal bands

to refer to one's superior.

– ...Kisaragi Karen? The protegee of that diva?

– Yeah, like you said. This may be luck indeed. If we take Kisaragi Karen as our hostage, it'll be a good bargaining tool. With this, we can even be able to drive the suspension of the tournament.

– I see, I heard somethin' good. We might be lucky.

In order to block an escape route, the men slowly approach Karen while spreading their hands greatly. They look like a carnivore capturing its prey.

(Card-san, please help Karen...!)

While noticing the fear of the heavy pressure given by the men, Karen picked up the card around her waist and put it in the sky.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

The fortune type Hundred, <<Miraculous Sacred Amulet>> *Divine Card* releases its strength. The card whose mark has changed to a bullet is turned into particles, and a gun is produced in Karen's hands.

– Please, do-don't get close to me!

Karen tries to point the gun to the terrorists.

But——

– Eh?

When she noticed, the men in front of her disappeared.

(Perhaps those people were Slayers?)

One of the terrorists knew Karen. Then by simple math, that means that they are also Slayers. In the case that an ordinary human being and a Slayer had to fight, to start with, the ordinary human being will never be able to win.

Yet, for them to try to capture Karen means that there was some chance of success. Karen's <<slip>> *miss* didn't notice it.

– Hyaa!

A strong stimulus ran on the body of Karen who was checking the

surroundings to find the figure of the terrorists, to her left and right.

(That of now...)

It seems as if an electric current rushed in her body.

And *thud*.

Karen fell to the ground as if collapsing. The armament is also cancelled.

– You'll take her out of here, right?

– Yeah.

Unlike before, the appearances of the two terrorists are also clearly visible to Karen. The man called aniki looks to a rectangular device in his hand.

(Is that...)

Perhaps, it can be said that it's a stun gun?

That can be seen in cartoons and movies. It was the fat man who stretched out his hand to hold Karen's body.

– Why, are you doing this...? Why are you trying to stop the tournament?

At the same time the hand of the man touched the body, Karen asked.

– Because the Slayers, are our enemy.

It's the man called aniki that answered.

– ...enemy? But you, are Slayers.... Or else, you won't suddenly disappear—

– Ha ha ha!

Making sure to hold Karen, the fat man laughed loudly.

– ...Is that, you thought that was the ability of a Slayer? These clothes have the capability to capture the surrounding scenery. While I'm not moving, it can erase my appearance at ease.

– Hey, don't talk too much. It'll make it hard to use her as a hostage.

Don't let it slip from your mouth, the man called aniki suddenly advices.

– Yeah yeah, I know that. As one would expect, if I had to kill such a cute little Miss-chan, my heart would be in pain, but—

The fat man raised Karen's body.

– You bastards, let go of that girl!

Suddenly, a voice sounded on the spot. It was from Claudia Lowetti, member of team battles of Britannia team. She received the reports from the security headquarters, and came running.

Behind Claudia is the captain of the team of Britannia, Douglas Edward Wenz, the third prince of the Kingdom of Wenz, members of the Britannia Federation Army and Slayer troops.

Douglas had a grim expression and came out from the back of Claudia, and stood up in front of the terrorists.

– *Hundred On.*

It was an immediate Dual Act.

<< Glory of Deep Crimson>> *Red Gloria*— — appears in his right hand and<<Absolute Disaster>> *Death Star* appears in the left one. Douglas pointed the tip of *Red Gloria* to the terrorists and shouted.

– Move away from that girl right now, otherwise— —

– What otherwise are you blabbing about!

The man called aniki aimed the gun that he took out to Douglas.

– Kuh!

Douglas kicked the ground to repel the gun with the swords

At the same time. Bullets are fired.

Douglas tried to stop the blow with *Death Star* in his left hand. However, *Death Star* was destroyed at the same instant that touched the bullet; it turned into particles and disappeared.

– ...that gun was a *tranquilizer*. But, I have another sword!

Douglas tried to knock down the guns of the terrorists with the remaining *Red Gloria*.

– ...they disappeared...?

Abruptly, the figures of the terrorists who should have been there couldn't be seen, and Douglas stopped the movement of the arm.

– That's not it, Douglas-san! They haven't disappeared!

Karen's advice was a bit late.

– Wha———

When he turned his eyes to the abdomen, he could see the terrorist grasping tightly a knife with both hands. The man laughs with a puff, and pulls out the knife.

– ——guuh!

Another blow. The knife was swung so as to cut through the chest of Douglas. Without a moment's delay Douglas crouched to the ground due to the earlier abdominal damage and evaded it with a back step.

– Douglas-sama! Are you okay, Douglas-sama!

– Yes...

As he answered, Douglas suppressed the wounds on his abdomen and was sweating from his forehead.

– ...how, did you two do something like...

Claudia glared at the two terrorists.

– Then, I guess this will do it.

The man called aniki kept speaking while holding his gun with one hand and pointing it at Claudia.

– Because there's resentment against the Slayers. Each of our fellows have a resentment against the Slayers. Those who were deprived of work because of the Slayers, those who were deprived of their lover because of the Slayers, those who lost a special person due to mistakes of the Slayers, and those who are oppressed by the Slayers. All of them, regardless of whether it's directly or indirectly. There are people in the world who have a lot of resentment against the Slayers.

– Nevertheless, taking revenge against the Slayers!

Douglas got up using *Red Gloria* as a cane.

– Terrorists, listen carefully. You cling to the past and refuse to walk a new path. I used to be like that too. As a result, I became a criminal. But, the present is different. I noticed that there was another way and with that to take a step in my new life. To do what is right. That goes for you too, you can do it.

– That's coz' you were a special person from the beginning. We, who aren't special, we can't do it!

– *HUNDRED ON!*

Claudia in an instant was in her armament, and deployed a number of E barrier in front of them. The shots of the man called aniki were stopped.

– They seem to be out of ammo.

– Shit!

The fat man can't move because he's holding Karen. Claudia is about to start moving as it is a good moment for a counterattack.

But——

– Freeze!

Wha——

Claudia decided to stop her legs as he said.

– If you move I will blow up this!

The reason is, that the man has a safety device of a hand grenade in his hands.

[Hey, guys... can you hear me?]

A transmission from Fritz entered to Hayato and the girls that were heading to the scene.

. [I finally got to the target point, but it seems like it's turning into a dangerous situation]

– A dangerous situation you say...?

Hayato is bewildered while asking in return. It wasn't Fritz, but Claire that answered it.

[I will send a video of a surveillance camera in this moment masuwa]

– That's...!

Hayato saw the video sent from Claire and raised his voice instinctively.

The figure of Douglas who has collapsed, and Karen who's captured.

Moreover, one of the terrorists has a grenade.

– It's a bad situation. We can't provoke them imprudently.

Emilia said.

– Karen...

Hayato mutters.

By any means. He wants to save her. But, what should he do?

It was Fritz who called out to the troubled Hayato.

[If you don't mind, would you follow my instructions? I have an idea to break through this situation]

– “An idea”, and that what would be?

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Hayato inquires.

[That's to— —]

Fritz talked in regards of a strategy using three bullets. One bullet is to drop the grenade from the hands of the terrorists, a second bullet will touch lightly the lower part of it to not make it fall to the ground and will raise it to the air, and the third bullet will make it explode.

Hayato and co. have to approach the terrorists before the first bullet is released. And then, looking at the gap created when the grenade explodes, they'll rescue Karen.

– Is such a thing even possible to do?

He comprehends the shooting skill of Fritz. Still, Hayato thought that this thing has a high degree of difficulty.

— I can do it.

And Fritz asserts.

— Believe in my skill, I'll never hurt your sister.

— In case Fritz fails, I'll recover him. In that moment I'll leave Karen-chan to you two.

— ...understood.

Believing in their words of Fritz and Emilia, Hayato decided to accept the strategy. There's no alternative and by thinking in the combination of Fritz, a genius of sniper and Emilia who is good at handling operations, it's possible to deposit the life of his important sister to them.

To start with, this is not the moment to hesitate.

— Let's go, Hayato.

Hayato and Latia are getting closer to the side of the terrorists.

[That location is fine. If you get closer, you'll be noticed by the terrorists]

A communication from Fritz enters there.

[Okay, commencing operation. Counting—— 3, 2, 1——]

At the very same instant the count becomes 0.

Fritz fired the first bullet.

At that moment——

— — —kkuh!?

The bullet hits the right arm of the terrorist called aniki. As a result, the grenade falls from his hand. At that time, the second bullet that was already released grazes the falling grenade and makes it go to the sky.

[With this, all with end!!]

The third bullet of the incredible Fritz shot through the center of the grenade.

DON

And the grenade exploded sounding in the air. Simultaneously, Latia shouted.

– Let's go, Hayato!

– Yeah!

As planned, they accelerate using *energy*. To begin with, Latia launches a kick to the fat terrorist. Karen, who was freed because of that, Hayato secured her, embracing her in his arms. Because that thing happened in just a split second, for Karen it was a thing that she couldn't understand at all.

– ...Ni-nii-san? How?

Karen asks to Hayato while blinking incessantly.

– We came to save you.

With those words, she finally was able to understand that her brother came to save her.

– Nii-san!

Karen with teary eyes hugged tightly at the neck of Hayato.

– I was scared, Nii-san..... Thank you for coming to save me.

– You did something unreasonable.

With a bump of his finger he flicked her forehead.



Hayato smiled at Karen.

– But, I'm glad that you are safe.

– ...yes... but....

– Yeah, I know what you mean.

Karen's line of sight is directed to Douglas who's getting up with the help of the Slayers from the Federation of Britannia.

Emilia was approaching from the side.

– ...are you okay?

Emilia called out Douglas.

– I'm okay. Apart from that, Emilia-sama, the terrorists——

– Oh, you are right...

Emilia looks to the terrorists.

– Surrender! You guys have already been cornered!

– Damn it!

Being surrounded by so many Slayers, it cannot be helped.

Hayato thought that they would surrender.

But that didn't happen.

The terrorists run to a different direction where Hayato and the others are.

– You think you can escape?

Emilia raised a loud and surprised voice.

– Wait, be obedient and surrender!

Latia is the first that started to chase them.

But the terrorists didn't comply with such demand.

Looking back, they directed the E *tranquilizer* to Latia and shot a bullet.

– Kuh!

Latia deployed an E barrier to stop it. However, that resulted in her feet being stopped. Looking at the terrorists, they get on board of a car.

And once they are already on board. The car starts to run at high speed.

– At this rate they will escape!

Claudia shouts.

– I'll manage it somehow!

Emilia created two batteries with *Arms Shroud* and injected *energy* as a propulsion force.

Overtaking the car that started to run fast, she flipped her body and landed, and the particles converted into gun turrets. She used the *Arms Shroud* to generate two floating batteries. Then she points the muzzle to the approaching car.

– If you don't stop—— then I'll have to shoot you?

Even though her intention was transmitted, her words weren't heard at all. And so, the terrorists didn't step on the brake.

Being that the case, they go full throttle, speeding up the car. Moreover, the fat man set out himself from the passenger seat, and set up a rocket launcher against Emilia for obstructing their way.

——but.

– ...Huh?

In that precise moment, Emilia couldn't understand what happened.

All of a sudden the car rolled over.

She hasn't released any *energy* shots yet from the floating batteries and nothing has been fired from the rocket launcher on the side of the terrorists.

(What was that of now? It looked like a thunder...right?)

Emilia looked up at the sky.

It seemed like a thunder fell from there. However, it's not raining now, the sky is all clear.

Even clouds can't be seen. That wasn't a natural thunder.

(...if that's the case, then who on earth was it? Then again, this is not the time

to think about that...)

She can't let go of this opportunity. Landing on the ground, Emilia approaches the car. After checking inside, the two terrorists have fainted.

(But, it seems like they are breathing...)

Emilia made a chain with *Arms Shroud*. For caution's sake, she thought of tying them.

– (...okay, with this...)

The moment when she put her hand on the door of the car to tie them. Emilia felt the residual *energy* that was residing in that place. At the same time, a memory from Gudenburg crossed her mind.

It closely resembles what she felt from the woman who pulled the body of Douglas when she came to the royal palace and what she felt from the room of Hayato at midnight that day.

In other words, it's the Pope of Puritaria, Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III.

However, the figure of Serivia is nowhere.

(If that was the *energy* of Serivia-san, how is it possible for her to do it from anywhere, and how did she dropped that thunder into the car?)

Emilia didn't have a rough idea about such a thing.

– What is it?

Hayato approaches and calls out to her.

– Oh, well...

As a result of hesitation as to whether she should tell to Hayato about the energy and that it belongs to Serivia, Emilia decided to say nothing.

It's better to don't say anything of things you can't be sure of.

She thinks that it's better to not think too much about things before the tournament. She will only report it to the Student Council.

Emilia decided so, and showed to Hayato the string that she produced in her hand.

– For the time being, I thought of binding the terrorists with this. Hayato, can you give me a hand?

– Yeah, it's fine but.... More importantly, the thunder-like thing of just a moment ago, did you do it?

– Eh, no, not at all. What, was that thing?

There was a person standing on the roof of a hotel for spectators located in a place slightly away from the stadium. The face is hidden with light clothes so it can't be seen. However, the white <Liturgical> *Stern* clothes and the long hat that it's wearing reveal her identity.

It's the Pope of Puritaria, Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III.

– It seems like they were able to handle it well.

Serivia smiled with a gaze towards the stadium where the tournament is being held, then she kicked the ground and jumped off from the roof of the hotel.

Claire informed them that she wanted to talk about the terrorist incident, and so Hayato and the others gathered in the hotel conference room.

– In short, apart from the terrorists that were in that place, a thing similar to a lightning struck them?

– That seems to be the case masuwa. With that, all of the members could be caught.

Hayato and the rest who received the reports from Claire who gathered information looked as if they were surprised.

– What in the world was that 'lightning'?

A question brought by Fritz.

– It is still under investigation.

Answering, Claire kept talking.

– Oh right, about the rest desuwane. Karen-san's friends, Rebecca-san and Aoi-san, they seem to be unhurt. That is thanks to you, Karen-san.

– ...that's...

Karen scratched her cheek, feeling embarrassed.

– Besides, Karen-san is not hurt. Now, in terms to the current condition of Douglas Edward Wenz...

The facial expression of Claire becomes severe.

– It seems that he was stabbed deeply with a knife and it turned to be a very serious injury. That will play against him when participating for team battles.

– Is that so...?

She thinks that she is quite responsible for that. Karen was showing a sorrowful expression looking back to the aforementioned Rebecca and Aoi.

Hayato gently stroked her head, comforting Karen.

– Once his health condition is stable, let's pay him a visit. You should express him a word of thanks like [Thank you very much for rescuing me], isn't it?

– ...yes.

Karen nods.

However, that expression won't clear away.

It might be for this reason.

– Karen, you aren't the one to blame. Even though there were security guards there in the first place, it's strange that terrorism has occurred.

It was Latia that gave a voice of discontent.

She asks Claire.

– Naturally, the tournament will continue hereafter, right? If so, it won't be better if there are more disguised guards?

– It's as you say, Latia Saint-Émillion.

It's the voice of a man that sounded suddenly in the room. Latia, and of course Hayato and the others, were surprised.

– Since when Judal-san was there...?

Turning his head, Hayato asks.

– You captured the terrorists, and I thought that I have to give you my gratitude, so that's why I came in this way.

Smiling, Judal continued.

– ...it's certain that there was a problem with the security system as Latia-kun said earlier. However, I was able to confirm the problematic part in this case. So I will reinforce this place firmly by requesting the Slayers who have already lost their single matches to be hired as guards.

– If they agree, then tranquility will be doubled.

– Pretty much like that, Fritz-kun.

Judal has a very good humor.

The reason was also revealed to them in the following words.

– All things considered, it was really good to grasp the problem with minimal injuries. Being the case of the location of the places, in terms of damage, it was reported to be somewhat big. Voices wanting further countermeasures against terrorists and voices supporting the Slayers should also increase. Of course, Little Garden who caught the terrorists and is attached to Warslan will make the respect of the latter to rise rapidly. That's a big plus for us—

– Onii-sama, you are going too far desuwayo. Some people came out injured.

– ...right, my apologies. It seems that I was carried away. With that, I'll take my leave. Well then—

– Good grief.

Bringing Neveah with him, and confirming that Judal left the room, Claire sighted greatly.

– ...his entrance was a hindrance, but the conversation has ended desuwa. With this, the report is over desu.

– In other words, it has dissolved.

– Is Hayato visiting Douglas-san together with Karen-chan after this?

- That's our intention, do you want to go with us?
- I have to talk about something for a bit, so I'll remain here.
- Something to talk, with President?
- It's not a big deal. So Hayato go with Karen-chan to the hospital.
- O, okay...

What kind of conversation is she going to have?

Despite the doubt, Hayato and the others left the room.

Only the three Student Council members and Emilia are left in the room.

- ...so what do you want to talk about desuno?
- Is it fine for us to be in here?

It was Liddy who asked.

- There's no problem.

Answering, Emilia continued.

- What I wanted to talk is related to the mysterious lightning. There's something that is worrying me a little.

And so Emilia began to talk, informing them about how she felt a faint *energy* of Serivia from the rolled car.

- ...so it's that sort of thing desuno.

A little while ago she heard from Hayato and Emilia that a specific matter happened in Gudenburg. Pope Serivia is a Slayer with a powerful *energy*.

If it's taken into consideration that three points were hit almost at the same time from a long distance, then that wouldn't be the doing of a lonely individual.

Nevertheless, it's beyond human capabilities to make sure that everything was hit and that there's no deaths on the terrorist side either.

And according to the plan, there's no way to express this but exactly as a miracle.

– There’s one more thing to say. If we are aiming for the victory. Then we must be really careful of the team of Serivia, the team of Puritaria.

– I will tell Chris to gather up information masuwa.

After that, Emilia left the room.

Claire breathed with a sigh and muttered.

– This is really going to be a tough fight desuwane.

Inside the arena, there are rooms set for maintenance of Hundred and Variable Suits.

However, because the number is limited, the time of use is also restricted.

Therefore, the team of Rasiya independently created a special maintenance room outside the stadium.

There are many machines and computers that are tightly placed in the interior that isn’t spacious. On the other hand, almost nothing is placed in the adjacent wide room. That is for the equipment used to adjust the Variable Suits.

A Slayer was standing on top of that.

The Slayer of the Federation of Rasiya, Gert Abramovic.

He just finished the match, so he was supposed to undergo maintenance. Cezary tells him that it’s to adjust the problems that occurred during the fight.

Of course, the problem is that the ability of the Variant has runaway.

– Well, let’s begin.

Cezary said to the old man standing next to him in the maintenance room.

He is Andrew Frolov, chief engineer of Rasiya Empire Slayer troops. He had a small quadrilateral device that fits in one hand.

– Do it.

As instructed by Cezary, Frolov pushed the button of the device. Then Gert crumbles down on the floor as if squatting, and releases a violent scream.

[Hey, Cezary, what are you doing?! What the hell is——guaaa———!]

– It's punishment.

Receiving the device from Frolov, Cezary said.

[Punishment?]

– It is forbidden to use the power of the Variant in single matches. This is a punishment for breaking it.

This time, Cezary pressed the button.

[Guaaaaaaaaaaa— — —!]

Gert screams while his body is trembling. The mechanism is that by pressing the button, sound waves that stimulate Gert's Variant virus will flow into the room.

[Cezary, I was wrong. I won't use the ability of the Variant anymore. So, stop th-... guaah! Aaaaa— —!]

– Cezary-sama, please stop.

She couldn't bear to watch Gert continuously screaming.

It was Elena, a member who's also participating as part of the team of Rasiya who struck Cezary's shoulder from behind.

– There's a sill a round of single matches that Gert has to fight in. If you give more stimulus, sooner or later he— —

– Elena-san. This is for practice.

Who said that, it wasn't Cezary. It was Frolov.

– ...for practice, you say?

– Yes. It will remember to the body to never run wildly again.

Listening to Frolov's reply, Elena bites her lips.

She can't believe that they are doing this kind of treatment to a person that is the same as them.

As if they were treated like livestock.

(...the fact that we are artificial Variants means that we are no longer human beings, it seems that...)

But, it was she that wanted to do so. She heard that for Gert it was like that too.

They can't go back anymore.

– Elena, you don't have a problem, right?

– No, not at all.

In regards to Cezary's question, Elena replied.

– Very well.

Cezary expressed a satisfying smile due to the response of Elena, and moved next to Gert, who's suffering in pain in the next room.

– Ce, za, ry... stop, it alrea...

Gert raised his head in that same posture which he fell on the ground, and glared at Cezary. His eyes are dyed in golden color.

– Even though I say it, you use the power of the Variant without my permission, isn't it?

– Guaaa—h!

Gert writhes in pain over the floor, he is facing down, and can't move.

– ...what a foolish person.

Cezary approached the side of Gert and kicked his giant body.

– ...what do you think, have you recovered?

– Uguh, uh...

Cezary raised himself to his full height, being in front of Gert who is currently placed upside down.

– Win the single matches. Of course, don't use the power of the Variant. That's an obligation that you must fulfill. If you can't do that, then the day that you bastard can be free will be even far away.

Cezary asks, grasping the head of Gert.

– I get it, reply to me with 'I get it'.

– I... get it...

– Very well.

Loosening his mouth and grinning, Cezary separated his hand from the head of Gert.

– I'll leave to Frolov the rest of the treatment. You must recover to be at your maximum condition for the next match. Both in single matches and team battles, Rasiya will rule over this tournament.

– Sorry for troubling you, Judal-sama.

Neveah Grauss, his secretary and bodyguard, comes into the room of Judal prepared in the stadium.

– What's wrong, Neveah? You were supposed to have another job...

– There is something that I have to report. If possible, I would like to talk with just the two of us.

– Is that so?

Judal's line of sight is directed to the Slayers of Warslan who are serving as guards for this room instead of Neveah.

– You guys, wait outside.

– Understood.

According to Judal's orders, the Slayers went out of the room.

Inside of it, there's only Judal and Neveah.

– The report is about the team of Rasiya, right?

– Affirmative.

That investigation, was a job given to Neveah.

A week has passed since the match between Kenzaki Touka and Gert Abramovic.

There haven't been terrorist attacks since that day.

The tournament went on safely without any major troubles, and yesterday, the final match of single matches was held.

The winner was the opponent that Touka fought in the second round.

The Slayer of the Federation of Rasiya, Gert Abramovic.

The third round, the fourth round, Gert won easily, but the semifinals and the final were difficult in their own way.

In neither of the matches, he didn't display the <Ability> *Strength* like in the second round——

He didn't use to so-called Variant's power. That power, did he produced because he was cornered? Or else, he didn't dare to use it to avoid acting rashly?

To either of them, Judal can't determine it for the moment.

Whether the Variant's ability is congenital or acquired, he didn't know at the present time.

Neveah was the one to investigate whether there are other Variant Slayers of the Rasiya Empire as well as the information to confirm it.

Depending on Rasiya, they can be a great obstacle, not only to Warslan and Little Garden, but also to the team of Puritaria with which they are cooperating.

– The problem are these three people.

Neveah projected Cezary, Gert and Elena on a huge floating monitor that was installed in the room.

– Among the registered members of Rasiya, only from these three people we were unable to obtain personal information in whatever form, they were protected by strict security.

– Didn't the ability of Warslan's intelligence department break through the security?

– Yes.

To begin with, information isn't placed on an external network, so no matter whatever technique you try, you can't get it. In addition, Rasiya army has solid

information management and military control.

Neveah answered that it was also difficult to obtain information through spies located in the area.

– Then, a different route. According to an information from the Puritarian side, a certain fact was confirmed.

– ...and what would be?

– Cezary Gravin has changed the name of his family register. His real name is Vasily Tynyanov—

– What did you say?

Judal asks, frowning the part of the eyebrow closes to the nose.

– Tynyanov? Is that really true?

– Yes.

Nodding with a subtle expression, Neveah continued.

– Cezary Gravin is Vitaly Tynyanov's real younger brother.

– Haha, hahahahahaha! Vitaly, is that story true, huh!?

When Judal inquired while laughing loudly, a small window appeared at the right corner of the floating monitor, showing the appearance of Vitaly Tynyanov.

[Oh dear, I'm also surprised, you know. It's been around 5 years since I've seen his figure, but Cezary Gravin certainly has an air of my brother Vasily Tynyanov. At any rate, did he go through plastic surgery? Although he has grown old, I couldn't really recognize him. On top of it, he became a Slayer?]

– I've heard a story that you have a brother, but the story that he had the qualities of a Slayer is new to me.

[In a test done when he was a child, the response that he had with a Hundred was minimal. So it's unexpected that he is a Slayer. Good gracious, I'm really surprised. However, as the constitution changes with growth, when some people grow they acquire the ability of a Slayer, and because of that, it's hard to be the representative of a country]

– That means that he has become a Variant.

[Or maybe the reason is that he is an artificial one— —]

– There isn't any information about it?

Judal asks Neveah.

– Unfortunately, we are still investigating. For the time being, I thought that I should inform to Judal-sama about the relationship between Cezary Gravin and Vitaly Tynyanov, that's why I came to report.

[If that's the case, then I'll do a search]

– ...you?

Neveah's sharp gaze is directed at the monitor.

[Although we haven't met for several years, then if I make my brother as the search target— —if it's a search word, then I can think of it more than anyone else. We should be able to draw out information in an instant]

– I'm expecting it, Vitaly.

After saying so.

It seems that she, in regards of Vitaly, is somewhat jealous.

Judal corrected his posture sitting deeply on the sofa, and said to Neveah.

– Neveah, can you make tea? That can't be done by Vitaly— —right now, only you can do that work.

– ...understood.

Neveah, who unseated at once, came back with tea pots and cups containing tea, and when she was about to finish pouring it.

[Search finished]

The floating monitor which disappeared is suddenly displayed, and the appearance of Vitaly appears there.

– ...and, the result is?

Judal drinks tea in a cup handed over from Neveah and asked.

[Apparently Vasily seems to have become a genuine Variant. In the past, when fighting Savage, there is evidence that he was wandering around the edge of life and death]

– ...I see.... That's a bother....

A real Variant is more capable than an artificial one. If it's about becoming the captain of the team of Rasiya, then he has stabilized.

– What about the other two?

[Unfortunately, there's no information of their Variant. But, Vasily is my brother. As a matter of course, he was clever since he was a child. In my desire to be a scientist, they obtained one of my research results, if not, it would be impossible for them to create an artificial Variant. Anyway, they are making use of my own Variant's blood]

– In other words, the remaining two people are likely to be artificial Variants using Vasily's blood?

[That's how it is]

– Good grief, your research results, are causing problems one after the other.

[What are you talking about? The main culprit of all of this is you]

– I know.

Answering after he played the fool, Judal continued.

– Vitaly, can I ask you a question?

[... what is it?]

– If I and your brother bumped into each other. Which one would you choose?

[Such a foolish question]

Expressing a smile as if was the most natural, Vitaly replied.

[Of course, the man that I would choose is decided, isn't it?]

Chapter 1: Brother and Sister *Carol* s-Sports

Cezary was in the hotel room where he was lodging.

It's located on the top floor of the hotel where the Liberian railroad company has management rights of it, established a little away from the venue of the World Martial Arts Tournament.

It has quite the view at night, and the spacious room wasn't prepared from the officers of the tournament.

He chose it himself.

Although he was able to be strictly guarded, staying at a hotel administrated by Warslan didn't fit his pride.

Cezary murmured in his mind, picking up the darts placed in his room.

(A little more, Nee-san)

(Finally, to that man I will—)

(I will be able to take revenge on Judal Harvey)

Standing in front of the board on the wall, Cezary set up the darts.

— ...Nee-san....

Since Cezary was a very young child, he continuously respected his elder sister, Vitaly Tynyanov, who is five years older than him, and that was revered as a genius from the adults that surrounded her.

The first time that the coldhearted attention shifted from the surroundings to her, was right after she graduated from the university at the age of 13.

Even though there were invitations from many laboratories in Rasiya, she rejected them all and joined Warslan Company, one of the corporations in the United States of Liberia.

For the last 100 years or so, Rasiya and Liberia have been renowned to the world as one of the great countries. They were rivals who continued their competition in areas like development of military technologies accompanied

with space development, and so they were ahead of the rest of the countries.

Rasiya dominated both in their initial stages. It was also Rasiya that made mankind advance into space.

However, it was gradually being caught up with the technology development in Liberia, and at that rate, it ended up losing the lead.

Speaking of how, the regional character was to blame.

The Rasiya government rarely cooperated with other countries until the creation of the Hundred. They continued to conduct technology development secretly led by the government. They didn't even provide technology to their allies, and also banned any interaction between scientists and engineers.

The advantage of that is that an enormous budget is spent on research and development and information is not leaked to other countries, but on the other hand, excellent technicians are limited and information of other countries isn't available.

Liberia, in contrast with that, opens the door to many countries and secures excellent technicians.

Catching up and overtaking the lead of Rasiya, they collaborate with private companies to continue with research and development.

It was the *First Attack* that became the turning point.

Since that time Liberia continued to overwhelm Rasiya in the field of technological development.

Warslan Company, one of the private companies that is registered in Liberia, created a decisive battle weapon for the Slayers——the Hundred.

It goes without saying that it affects Liberia's superiority.

In this way, Rasiya was impatient that Liberia could dominate the world, but nevertheless they didn't cooperate with other countries.

Instead, they started a program to train excellent researchers in the country.

It was Cezary Gravin's, or better Vasily Tyanyanov's elder sister—— Vitaly Tynyanov who was the first to give fruits.

But she was too good. In Rasiya, you can't research on your own freely, and you don't receive any encouragement either.

As long as they rely solely on internal technology development, she immediately decided that Rasiya wouldn't win Liberia and chose to join Warslan.

Rasiya's government staff and professors that educated Vitaly were obviously disillusioned with her decision.

As a result, not only to her father and mother, but also to his brother Vasily, a stern look from the federal government and the people came.

And so that's when the neurosis came.

– You are going to serve to our country, right?

Cezary remembers that every night his father shook his shoulders talking about serving the country.

And yet, he never got into his father's words.

He also thought that his sister's judgment was correct, and he also respected his sister who became a member of an organization where only genius gather.

He was proud of his older sister's accomplishments and achievements, and sooner or later, to research together with her, he did nothing but study, day after day.

Nevertheless— —

She was demoted from Little Garden which is the base of research and development of Warslan Company, and came to work in a small research laboratory in Rasiya.

On the contrary, she was imprisoned for being involved with human bodies, which was prohibited.

The superiority of my sister, for what reason— —

Vasily couldn't understand.

Why, why his older sister was demoted from Little Garden to Rasiya's laboratory, and started to get involved with prohibited experimentation with

human beings.

And then the relationship that his sister had with Judal Harvey. That her sister got weird by being abandoned by Judal.

Her sister turned out to be involved with something that must be avoided and so returned to the headquarters.

(Everything is Judal's fault, that bastard)

The hostility inside Vasily against Judal was getting big.

At that time Vasily, the younger brother of the criminal, was getting backbitten from everywhere.

He was aiming to be a researcher just like his older sister, but that future may have been closed.

– Fuck!

He wasn't just angry.

Vasily grasped the *Variable Stone* that was placed to the side as a research material.

That was emitting a strong brilliance.

– With this...

Although it showed a slightly reaction in the past, it never gave a strong light to such extent.

What the heck is with this, he realized that when the measured reaction value resulted to be fairly high.

And then he tried it, and was able to deploy the Hundred.

(No way, is it showing me that the Hundred is the way to go? To go forward as a Slayer, and not as a researcher, isn't it—?)

If he becomes a top-class Slayer, then he may be able to get closer to Judal Harvey way earlier than as a researcher.

(In that case, with this hand, my revenge on Judal is—)

From that day, Cezary started training as a Slayer.

He didn't enter the university, he entered the Rasiya army instead, and after that he also continued to train continuously on a daily basis.

However, Cezary, who was too impatient to get results, suffered a serious injury on his back in the middle of a certain Savage operation.

He received a direct attack from a Savage, and wandered in the depths of life and death.

(Hmm, that was a bit.... My dreams, will they end here? I refuse.... That sort of, is absolutely——)

Cezary didn't give up, even on the verge of his consciousness breaking off.

Is it thanks to that?

Cezary managed to escape death, and the moment when he woke up, he was a Variant——

– I'm a... Variant! So-called legendary Variant! Hahah, hahahahahah!

Naturally he can't stop laughing.

He became a Variant along with a few people over the world.

It is not an exaggeration to say that he became an elite Slayer.

But, that wasn't easy.

To control the ability of the Variant, it was going to be extremely difficult.

However, after trying hard and training over and over again, Cezary became able to control the ability of Variant, and ascended to the top as of the Slayers of Rasiya.

Thus, leading up now.

– Judal Harvey. I'll never forgive you for deceiving my sister and for pushing me down to hell——Absolutely I, no matter what it takes, I'll have my revenge with these hands.

The enemy, Judal Harvey's face, can be seen on the dart board. The dart is thrown by Cezary.

It was a splendid Bull's Eye*.

*TN: It was written as “Bull’s Hit in english”.

There is a rest period of five days from the end of the individual matches until the team battles begin.

Meanwhile, at the stadium which is the venue for the World Martial Arts Tournament and the facilities in the vicinity, s-Sports tournament was being held.

s-Sports stands for SLAYER SPORTS. As its name implies, are sports for Slayers.

Not only the deployment of armament but also the use of energy is permitted as well, and the records issued are far beyond the limits of human beings.

...so Hayato and several members of the team competition were supposed to participate in that s-SPORTS tournament.

Of course, he will participate in team battles starting the day after tomorrow, so he can’t afford to compete using a lot of energy.

There was also a request that Hayato wants to appear on obstacle race and survival race which is a long distance running with battles, but to all of them Claire didn’t give her permission.

Hayato requested to be allowed to participate in the athletics competition, such as 100 meters run.

– The use of the accelerator that the *energy* of Hayato-kun can use, it will be a considerable thing for all the Slayers. So I think that you will hardly lose.

It was Sakura who called out Hayato who is in the waiting space of the athletes participating in the track and field event.

Karen is also next to her.

They were visiting this place shooting for a program presenting the s-Sports.

– Nii-san, Touka-san is also cheering for you.

– Oh, did you go to her hospital room this morning?

– Yes, she told me that she wants to see you winning the gold medal.

Touka fought Gert and ten days have passed since she collapsed.

After the finals of individual matches were over.

As originally scheduled, Aoi and Rebecca have returned to Little Garden.

Claire told Touka to return together with them, but she refused.

The reason is that she wants to see the fight between Hayato and Gert with her own eyes. Towards the day that is coming, she would like to support the team of Little Garden with all that she has.

As a result, Claire is moved by the enthusiastic appeal, and Touka remains on Calbrera Island and continues the treatment.

– Hayato-kun, please show us when you win the gold medal.

– I don't think that it will be easy to do though.

Immediately after he answered to Sakura.

Hayato's eyes are snatched away, looking at a woman who passed by in front of him going along with a lot of people around her.

(That, that person, it seems that I have seen her somewhere)

Is she a little older than Hayato and the others?

It is a very pretty, sparkling girl.

(...umm, who is she?)

He can't remember who she is, he is bothered by it.

Was she a Slayer of some country?

– Hayato-kun, what are you looking so blankly...

The moment she saw Hayato's line of sight, the facial expression of Sakura changed completely. On the contrary, she charged at him, pulling a wry face, and frowning while pressing a question.

– Hey Hayato-kun! Why were you looking that girl? What the hell is going on?

– Hey, wait a minute. Why are you agitated so suddenly? Or rather, who is she?

– Eh? You looked her but you don't know who she is? Or are you trying to mislead me?

– As expected, Nii-san wasn't even aware of that. Because, he watched the program that we were on New Year's Eve, right?

Immediately after cutting into the conversation.

– Ah, aaaaaaaaaa— — —!

That girl raised her voice.

She came out from the people that were around her, and rapidly went where Hayato and the others are.

– Long time no see, my rival. And petit rival!

First of all, Sakura— —

Next, Karen is pointed with a finger, and then the girl said.

– Ah! It seems that you've found us.

Sakura sighs greatly.

Next to her, Karen laughs with *A ha-ha-ha* and smiles in trouble.

– Umm, following the conversation of before...

That one, that girl is in front of him.

– Still... Nii-san, do you really don't remember? A little while ago we— —she is an Idol that was singing in the first part of the New Year's Eve song program.

– Ah...

That's when Hayato understood.

There, seems that he remembered.

– It seems that I remembered it.

Saying so amazedly, Sakura looks at the girl.



– She is Carol Caroline. Before I did my apparition, she was a very popular

Idol.

– Wait a moment!

She was displeased with the introduction of Sakura.

Carol lunges to Sakura with a sharp threatening attitude.

– What is with “a long time before I did my apparition”? I’m a very popular Idol right now, you know!? That’s why I’m being asked to serve as the *main narrator* of this competition.

– I see, come to think of it, that voice...

Her voice is identical with the announcement that was transmitted at the venue during the individual matches.

– That’s right, and that man— —he is that Kisaragi Hayato, am I right?

Carol approached suddenly and looked into his face, and with that, Hayato without thinking pulled his body one step behind.

– He, hello...

– Hmm, he is certainly good-looking, isn’t it? Say, Kirishima Sakura? Is it fine if I take Hayato-kun?

– Wha!?

Hayato gives a surprise voice as Carol suddenly grabs his right arm.

– Wait, what are you doing!?

Following that, Sakura raised her voice in anger.

She pulled the arm opposing the left one, and attracted Hayato to her body.

– You can’t take away Hayato from me because you are an **ordinary person**. Hayato-kun belongs to me since we are both Slayers!

– Hey! You...

He was pulled from the left and right like a tug of war, and Hayato couldn’t do anything.

Looking at that situation, the reporters who originally should have come to interview the Slayers participating in the s-Sports, have somehow gathered

around them.

(Wh, what do I do now...?)

[Diva and Idol——competing for the favorite Slayer of Little Garden]

Hayato is overwhelmed due to the influence of the click-clack from the photos taken.

However, as Sakura and Carol said that such a thing isn't related to them, Hayato is being hold between in an engaged heated discussion.

– ...what the, what's with regular person huh? It's because I'm a diva!? I'll definitely make him mine. Hayato-kun. I'm more attractive than that tiny breasts .

– Uwaah!

She pulls the arm of Hayato once again with more strength.

Munyuu, and.

His arm was buried in Carol's abundant breasts.

– Huh? Who are you calling small breasts!?

– Wawah!

He was pulled from the opposite direction this time.

– I do have a certain size in its own way. Hayato-kun checked them as he saw them directly!

– He, hey! What are you saying!?

– Di, directly.... Nii-san, what does that mean?

The next participant was his little sister Karen.

She lifts her eyebrows from the front and asked.

– No, well, that was an accident, how to say it...

– You guys, calm down for a bit, okay? If you want to quarrel, do it in a proper place.

For Hayato who was perplexed as to how this place was disturbed, the

strongest helper appeared.

Sakura's and Karen's manager, Souffle Clairrail. She scolded Sakura and Karen with a shaky appearance and turned her eyes to Carol.

– And Carol, I believe that this is not the place for you to waste time, right?

– ...oh, that's right. I have to move to the broadcast seat soon. Hayato-kun, do your best .

Throwing a kiss and leaving, Carol left the spot.

– She is kind of a noisy girl huh.

That was the impression of Carol to Hayato.

He even thought that she resembles a typhoon.

– Right? She is really troublesome.

– But, I have a hunch that it's almost the same impression when I first saw you.

– Come on, that's not true!

Sakura desperately denies it.

– You think so? I thought that it would be something like a quarrel. Look, it is said that quarreling means that you are on good terms, isn't it?

– Hmm, that's not true... besides, she is five years old than me.

– Eh? For real?

– Yeah, that old hag dress herself to look younger!

It was a shock that she didn't look like that at all.

– At any rate, she isn't an old hag. Do you dislike her that much?

– I hate her!

Sakura makes an immediate response, but there was a person who thinks different.

It's Karen.

– But, but Sakura-san, Carol-san's songs, you like them, isn't it? The new song

of some time ago, you praised it.

– Th, that’s.... Look, the human nature and the value of their creative work are different. It’s just like that! I can perfectly isolate them and evaluate them properly!

Looking at Sakura saying so, Hayato and Karen laughed looking at each other.

– Wha, you too, why are you laughing... tell me!

[Now, it’s the final of the 200 meters race. Eight players are participating——]

The introduction of the participating players by Carol was echoing in the stadium.

[In the third lane is the member of Little Garden, Kisaragi Hayato!]

The cheers are coming from the front row of the spectator’s seats where Sakura and Karen are. Both of them stood up and cheered Hayato.

– Kyaaa——, go for it, Hayato-kun!

– Please do your best, Nii-san!

Emilia sitting next to them, stared motionlessly at the figure of Hayato.

– Now, I guess if Hayato can win this.

That’s what Fritz said.

He was sitting side by side with Latia in the row behind Karen, Sakura and Emilia, watching the participants warming up on the battlefield.

– Relax, I’m sure he’s going to win.

Looking back, Emilia answered.

Hayato has already won the 100 meters race.

Moreover, it was with a world record.

– The problem is if he can bend on the curve properly.

Shuemei said that, sitting in the back seat of Fritz.

– It was a dangerous place in the semifinals.

Noah, sitting to the side of Shuemei, said to continue that.

This 200 meters race is with the use of armament— —.

Moreover, you can accelerate using energy.

Their speed can be compared with one of a race car.

100 meters race is a straight line. Therefore, in order to stop you need to reverse thrust after crossing the line, but a 200 meters run would make the track a semicircle. If you miss control in a curve, then there is the possibility of ending in the wall.

The semifinal took place 30 minutes ago.

Even though Hayato was able to win the preliminary contest going at ease with his opponents, for the semifinals that won't work, so he decided to output *energy* from the start.

As a result, he couldn't bend the curve successfully and wasn't' able to finish in first place, but he advanced to the next one in second place.

– Be at ease, Hayato will win. I'm sure of it.

Alphonse said that, eating a hot dog next to Noah.

– No, it's absolutely necessary to gain victory. For the honor of Little Garden!

– Hee, you are saying pretty cool things today, isn't it?

Latia is surprised after the enthusiastic talk of Alphonse.

– Ehehe, you think so?

That *hehe*, a smile was floating on the face of Alphonse.

Noah was sighing next to him.

– Latia, don't be fooled. Alphonse is just betting on Hayato.

– A bet?

– s-Sports competitions are subject to betting, and the bet on Hayato at the 100 meters race was a very profitable one.

Ehehe, Alphonse smiles.

– Then that means that you are betting on Hayato even at the 200 meters race.

– Indeed.

– ...then in the case that Hayato wins the championship, doesn't that mean that Alphonse is in favor of it?

– Wh, what are you saying Latia!?

– Yeah, that's fine, isn't it?

– Haha yup, I think so too.

– Shuemei and Noah, it's time!

– Everyone, the race it's about to start!

In response to Karen's words, everyone's gazes are concentrated on the track.

Along with the usual encouraging yell of *HUNDRED ON*, the participants deployed their armaments.

Then, took the position of *Crouch Start*.

BANG!

The gunshot echoes in the silent stadium.

Hayato was the first to come out before the great cheers arise.

It's an acceleration that he seems to have forgotten about what happened in the semifinals.

– If this goes as it is, it's going to be Hayato-kun's victory!

Sakura cried without thinking.

– Yes!

Karen also agrees with her.

However, the curve before the eyes of Hayato was drawing near.

– Let's see, can he turn?

Fritz smiles and grins.

– It's okay, he is going to turn. If it's Hayato, then that's a sure thing!

Emilia said with confidence.

Hayato brought down his body, putting it horizontally, almost touching the ground surface.

Many would think that he will fall at this rate.

– Hayato, keep it like that!

Latia screams.

– You can do it, Hayato!

Then, Alphonse also shouted.

They wonder if such cheering reached him.

Hayato keeps his posture without falling and made it through the goal.

He ran through the goal line in first place.

– Hooray!

– He did it!

Karen and Sakura stood up, embracing each other.

– He diiiiiiiiid iiiiit!

Jumping up, Alphonse said with a loud voice.

Near him, Emilia had a smile on her face.

– Hayato won, isn't it?

– ...hey, Alphonse-kun. How much did you won?

– Ah, wait!

Noah robbed the PDA that Alphonse was watching.

– ———ugh, you bet to others besides Hayato!

– That is, I thought that because of that time.... And that there is a curve then...

– ...then, as a result of spreading your gamble, you didn't earn too much....
With this, you won't get to treat to everyone...

– Because he won the 100 meters, Hayato is more popular than I thought. So that means that I didn't get too much of it...

– Good grief...

Oh dear, and Noah turned her hands to the sky in exasperation.

– But, Hayato-kun won the championship, and you decided to treat us. The 100 meters was pretty profitable so there shouldn't be any problem, am I right?

– Eeh!?

So in this way, in the middle of this group, is when it's planned that the celebration is going to be Alphonse's treat.

Hayato, who cancelled his armament, was taking big breaths at the corner of the track, wiping the sweat floating on his forehead with his arms.

– It looks like I managed to win...

It was a pretty tight one.

If he did only a single mistake, he thought that he could have cause trouble to the surroundings, let alone losing, so he felt relieved from the bottom of his heart.

[In the 200 meters race, the gold medal, following the one in the 100 meters race goes to the participant Kisaragi Hayato!]

Hayato raised his hands to respond to Carol's announcement and cheers came from the spectators.

(This mark the end of my competition. Now it's the turn of Fritz and the others huh...)

Hayato turns his eyes to Fritz and Latia, who are standing up and clapping in the audience seats. Fritz's turn came after Hayato's celebration party which also served as a luncheon meeting.

It was a shooting tournament held on the coast behind the arena.

There, he shot to targets more than 5 kilometers ahead.

And like Hayato, his victory set a new world record.

Rumors are saying that a charming handsome person have played a role in capturing the terrorists who hit the venue, and with that, the popularity of Fritz appears to be considerable high.

Immediately after the gold medal was decided, many women surrounded him.

Among the ordinary people, around 50 of them were Slayers.

Latia wanted to bless him the most than anyone, so she was dissatisfied seeing that scene.

– It's not funny, it's not funny at all!

While saying so, she was sitting on the sandy beach grasping her knees, scribbling on the beach with a tree branch.

[Stupid Fritz]

He wonders why she is so anger.

As measured immediately after the punching machine, Latia beat the third place in the girls' division and shined a bronze medal.

– Well done!

– No!

After the medal awarding ceremony.

While Fritz was stroking her head, Latia was holding a sulking expression.

– Why are you like that, be more happy.

– Strawberry parfait.

– What?

– I'll be happier if you give me that.

– Why would I do that?

– Just do it, okay! Do it!

– Okay I got it. I'll do it.

– Alright, then that's *OK*.

Finally Latia showed a happy smile.

– Kisaragi Hayato won in the men’s division of 100 meters and 200 meters. Fritz Grantz won in the long range shooting division and Latia Saint Émillion got a bronze medal. Members of our team seemed to stand out even at the competition of s-Sports.

In a room prepared in the stadium, Claire had a satisfying smile while drinking black tea.

– With this, the attention to Little Garden will rise even more.

– That’s true.

Focusing the attention to Little Garden isn’t a bad thing. It can also gather Slayers with wonderful abilities as well as adherents.

– But—

In a complete change, Claire stiffened her expression.

– We will need to be more vigilant than ever.

– ...I agree.

Making a fuss as the winning candidate, that will make the opponent teams to face Little Garden with their best members.

If it comes to that, they will have difficulties to win.

– Be that as it may, there was no re-attack by the terrorists, the s-Sports competition finished without problems. Everybody seems to be in good shape, and the rest are at full power—

Three days later—

In the midst of a state of high alert, the main event of the World Martial Arts Tournament is here.

The team battles of countries and organizations has started.

Chapter 2: Opening of Team Battles *Queen vs Princess Knight* The bonds between brothers

At the raffle held the day after the end of individual matches, the first match of Little Garden was decided as the second match on the second day of team battles.

The opponent is a selection team of the Real Republic located on the continent of South Liberia.

And the night before the game, they were called.

The members had a strategy meeting for the match of tomorrow, in the hotel conference room.

[If I have something to say is that, honestly, the ability of the Slayers from Real Republic is not that great. No matter the sort of methods they use, and the members that participate, the calculations of <<LiZA>> said that the odds of Little Garden to win are over 99%]

The floating monitor shows Chris Steinbelt, the main analyst of Little Garden. He was participating in the strategy conference from Little Garden through the *CyberNet*.

– If that's the case, it would be the best to have members participate for the first time in such external match* desuwane.

***TN: For more that I look over the internet, I can't find what it really means this: 対外試合. That literally means external match/bout/game/battle, but I can't grasp the real meaning of it, I'm sorry :c**

Claire's line of sight is directed towards Hayato, Fritz and Latia.

– Would that mean we are going earlier than the President?

– Affirmative desuwa.

Claire answered to Hayato who asked.

– Depending on the format of the match, I plan to make Kisaragi Hayato, Latia Saint Émilion and Fritz Grantz to be the core of the battles, and so to experience an external match desu.

There are three types of team battles.

First of all the <<3 vs 3>>—

Three people are selected from each team, so six people fight in total.

Next is <<Knockout Competition>>.

There are five members who can participate, and it's a form where they keep fighting until the leader is declared unable to continue, give up or when changing players. When all five of the opponents are defeated, the team's victory is decided.

The last one is <<Points Taker Battle*>>—

***TN: 星取り戦, I couldn't get the interpretation of the author with these kanji.**

This is also of five members, but they can't participate more than once.

Members are assigned as senpou, jihou, chuukun, fukushou and taishou*, and so they fight with the one assigned with the same role as them, which means, senpou vs senpou, jihou vs jihou and so on. The team who gets three victories wins.

***TN: Those names are assigned to athletes competing in a certain order, in this case, first, second, third, fourth and last.**

There's <<3 vs 3>>, << Knockout Competition >> and << Points Taker Competition >>.

Then, it's supposed to be decided by lottery before the match.

– In brief, if it's a match where more than three people come out—like <<Knockout Competition>> or <<Points Taker Competition>> then it will be my turn to participate.

That's what Emilia said.

Because she's the same as Hayato and the other two, a freshman, then it's

natural for her to also come out.

She said it with such attitude.

However, Claire instantly denies it.

– No, in that case, I'm thinking of sending out Krovahn and Nakri masuwa.

– Eeh, and why not me!?

– The armament of you and Nesat are specials—those aren't something to show off from the beginning. For Little Garden, it is like a secret weapon desukara.

– ...I see, that's why I wasn't put in s-Sports. You said so.

– Indeed desuwa. But, depending on the situation, it cannot be said that there is no possibility of participation. Don't get full of yourself, and each one of you be prepared—understood desuwane?

The next day. The second match on the second day of team battles.

The turn of Hayato and the others from Little Garden came. The audience gathered at the venue for the entry of the favorites gets excited.

– Like I thought, I feel a little nervous.

– Well, it's the same for me.

Fritz agrees with Hayato.

They watched the battle of the army of Britannia yesterday, so they know how the match will proceed.

They were already in the waiting space that was set on a corner of the battlefield. It's a small room where members of the team participating in the match and a part of the staff were admitted.

There's a bench and the battlefield can be seen through the tempered glass.

What it's going to be done are the greetings between the representatives, and the lottery to decide the battle format.

The representative from Little Garden is Claire—

And the captain Jagle Juggle from Real Republic came out, and after shaking hands, they drew lots.

Even if it's called a lottery, they choose and press one of the five buttons on the small device given to them. A ⑤x⑤ grid is displayed in the large-sized vision of the hall.

From the left in the vertical row.

Numbers are listed in the horizontal row from ① to ⑤ in order from the top.

When Claire pushed the button, all the squares in the vertical row ③ shined.

Next, when Jagle pushed a button, the square in the vertical ③, horizontal ② shined, the match format was decided.

[<<3 vs 3>>——the match format has been decided as <<3 vs 3>>!]

That means that Hayato, Fritz and Latia are selected to participate in the battle.

— As I said last night, the opponents' abilities aren't that high masenwa. However, we are the favorites. The opponent will come out with their best members from the beginning. You must not underestimate them desuwa. Are we clear desuwane?

— Got it.

— Then as representatives of Little Garden, please fight wisely.

— Hayato, Fritz and Latia, do your best.

— Yeah.

Pushed on the back from the words of Claire and Emilia, they walked towards the battlefield.

By the way, in case of <<3 vs 3>>, if all of the members are knocked out or they surrender then the match is decided, otherwise the decision is made by the referee of the tournament headquarters.

In this connection, unlike other formats, there are no penalties for being less than 10 seconds out of the ring.

However, if you stay more than 10 seconds outside the battlefield, that will be treated the same as being knocked out, then you will be unable to participate in the match.

The time limit for the match can be at the most 30 minutes.

It is the double of individual matches and other forms of battles.

– As Claire-sama says, the opponent has come with their best three as expected.

That's what Erika said.

Now, with the large vision of the stadium, along with Carol's announcement, the members participating for the team of Real Republic are being introduced. First is the captain of Real Republic, Jagle Juggle.

His Hundred is a Crusher type, the weapon is an axe.

The name of the Hundred is <<King of the Jungle>> *Lion King* or something along those lines.

He is a descendant of the family that inherits the blood of indigenous people that governed the village of the forest, and his long orange hair and his Variable Suit makes him looks like his skin was one of a beast.

Galette Lynn is introduced next.

She is the only woman among the members of Real Republic, a Battle Shooter type of Slayer that fights with two handguns using hand-to-hand fighting techniques.

The name of her Hundred is <<Female Leopard Hidden in the Dark Night>> *Def Leopard*.

Her beauty is seductive while she is also cold, matching perfectly with the basic black tone of her Variable Suit.

Lastly, Laupa Mamall.

He is a rare type of Slayer called Kicker type, which creates balls with *energy* and attacks by kicking them, like an active player soccer— —. It's said that he is the forward of the Real Republic national team.

The name of his Hundred is <<Left Foot of the Hero>> *Trick Star*.

Of course, he is quite popular.

Moreover, while Laupa entered, he created a ball with *energy* and started lifting it.

Making his Variable Suit look like a uniform, it is a condition of an optical illusion where a soccer match is about to start.

As a matter of course, the spectators who saw the performance were quite excited.

That concludes the introduction of the members of Real Republic.

Next, the introduction of the Slayers of Little Garden has started.

First was Fritz, followed by Latia, ending with Hayato, while Carol's introduction announcement continued.

– It appears that you are popular, don't you think?

Fritz said, making fun of him in response to the difference in cheers at the time of their introduction.

– Well, the one that Fritz had was quite the thing.

However, the one of Hayato had greater cheers.

That is an undeniable fact.

– I don't care about popularity. Even if I'm popular, I will be the same if I lose.

– I think so too.

Fritz answers.

Surely it's as Latia says.

They reached the center of the battlefield to the opposite side of the Slayers of Real Republic.

[And now, finally the favorites for the championship, Little Garden, has made its entry. Will Little Garden win as expected beforehand? Or will Real Republic bring unexpected results? This is the first match for both teams in this tournament. A very exciting battle will start from now!]

Following Carol's announcement, Hayato, Latia and Fritz deployed their armament.

Also on the Real Republic side, the two people excluding the already deployed Laupa Mamall deployed their armament.

(Everything is fine, I'm already prepared)

Hayato tells that to himself.

Incidentally, in the game they watched yesterday, the team of Britannia made it through the first match.

Claudia has also won the match and took the victory.

(I guess I can't lose, huh)

There is a promise with Touka.

They absolutely can't be defeated until they fight the team of Rasiya.

[Well then, let the match begin!]

Reverberates, the sound of the buzzer that starts the match.

– 'kay, here I go!

Laupa is the first one that started.

He kicked the ball that he made with *energy* at Hayato and his teammates. Then the ball splits into five and attacks all of them.

Exactly like the *Trick Star* itself.

Hayato and Latia tried to move out to dodge the ball of *energy*.

But Fritz didn't move.

– That won't do!

Firing shots consecutively from *Shooting Star* that he had set, he destroys the ball aiming at Latia, and the ball next to it. He tried to destroy the third ball that he expected to come to him with that momentum, but the bullet was blocked by Galette.

– Take this!

Galette who jumped high released bullets from both of her handguns like a machine gun while falling upside down.

— ...kkuh!

Fritz blocked them with the shield in his right arm.

However, the ball of Laupa is about to make contact with him.

He will be unable to dodge it.

— Tsk!

Touching the armor of Fritz, the ball exploded.

There's little damage due to it, but a cloud of smoke surrounds him.

Because of that, he can't see the figure of Galette that should have landed on the side.

It's a scenario where Fritz is no good at since short-range fighting isn't his expertise.

That alone, it doesn't mean his condition is fine.

— Guh!

Fritz felt the shock and raised a groaning voice.

Galette kicked Fritz.

It's for the sake of destroying the balance of his body and to aim at his head without armor with a gun.

(— —this is baad!)

Fritz caught his breath, looking towards the guns from both arms of Galette.

Unlike the balls that he withstood with armor, these were a direct hit.

However, thanks to a reliable assistant, he was saved.

— I'm coming!

It's Latia.

She kicked Galette's body as if it was a ramming attack, pulling her away from Fritz.

– You saved me!

– If you have time to express your words of gratitude, then help me. Let's go after Galette!

– Let's go!

Laupa made a huge ball and kicked it towards Fritz who was trying to aim for Galette.

Latia & Fritz vs Galette & Laupa.

In a state of a melee fight between the four of them.

Hayato and Jagul who are out from there kept a glance to each other.

(If I don't move from here this won't change. I have no choice but to go—)

It was Hayato who made the decision.

He stepped forward, setting up *Hien*.

Jagul also starts to move, responding to him.

– Uoooooooo—h!

– Ooooooooo—h!

Sword and axe hit each other.

The blow from the giant Jagul was quite heavy and powerful.

If he doesn't grasp it tightly enough, then *Hien* is—.

No, perhaps he is capable of even sent flying the body of Hayato.

Jagul pulled his big arms.

Hayato pulled his arms too.

And again, sword and axe collide with each other making a fierce sound.

Three times, four times.

That was repeated in the same way over and over again.

(This feeling, it might be that...)

Hayato was analyzing it calmly.

The *energy* from the axe of Jagul is gradually becoming intense and the strength of the blows is rising each time.

However, Hayato who's stopping the blows, hasn't poured *energy* into *Hien*. By doing so, that is, injecting *energy*, he can release a tremendous blow.

Hayato thought that to win he must do that.

– Uoooo— — —h!

Hayato brushed away the axe of Jagul that had been swung down again with the loaded *Hien*.

– HUH!?

Jagul, left in surprise, stares in wonder.

Due to Hayato's blow, the axe is separated from his hands.

Hayato launches a blow to his completely unarmed body.

Jagul collapses in complete silence.

– Damn it!

You can guess they were surprised with the retirement of the captain Jagul.

Hesitation born in the shots of Galette who was aiming at Latia.

– With that number of shoots, you won't me!

Galette releases bullets to the incoming Latia.

Although there are consecutive shots at close range, Latia approached Galette by dodging bullet after bullet. Then she threw a turning kick.

It brilliantly hits her and Galette is blown off to the wall outside the battlefield.

Because of that, her armament is cancelled.

– Nice, you are the only one that left.

Latia lands and looks towards Laupa.

He concluded that he won't be able to win in a 1 vs 3.

Laupa raised his hands, he gave up.

— — — I give up.

Speaking of results, it was as expected.

Hayato, Fritz and Latia, with great efforts won the match for Little Garden, and advanced to the second match that will take place three days later.

Four days after the first round.

Fourth game on the sixth day of team battles, second round of the team of Little Garden.

The opponent is the team of Francois.

The match format is determined by the captain, that means Claire, who is the representative of Little Garden, and her choice is a 5 vs 5 <<Knockout Competition>>.

In case of that format, the members were elected on the same day from the members who didn't participate in the first round. That was reported from Claire at the strategy meeting last night.

— Hey, Prez. Could you let me out of this if you don't mind? I want to watch the game of the other teams, I don't want to fight.

Emilia recommends that to Claire who came back to the waiting space after finishing the decision of the match's format.

However, she didn't give a positive answer.

— We have decided this morning that Liddy will be the first one to go. You are the fifth. The last one desuwa.

— Eh, I'm the last one? If so, there's a chance that I won't come out...

At any rate it's a <<Knockout Competition>>. There's a possibility that Liddy as the first one will defeat them all.

— As I said before, you are like the ultimate weapon. The last one is an important position to determine the team's victory or defeat, acknowledge your ability desu.

— If you say so.

— Emilia Hermit. Don't make light of your opponents. Carelessness can be the

biggest enemy. Let's warm up our bodies to be prepared when our turn comes.

– Saying that, does it mean that all of the vice-presidents will participate, right?

– There is no doubt that we will do so. Well then, let's go—

Liddy said that and started walking towards the battlefield.

The vanguard of the team of Francois is, like Liddy, a Phalanx type. The weapon of the female Slayer is a spear.

Both the type and the weapon are the same as Liddy.

In other words, the compatibility it's not a problem at all.

It's a complete competence match.

The result was Liddy's victory, as was overwhelming in all kind of parameters.

Continuing in the second duel against a Slayer of the Chevalier type, and then in the third match against a Dragoon type female Slayer, which affinity was bad with her, Liddy took the victory in about three minutes of game time.

[As, as expected from the favorites, the team of Little Garden! At this rate, can be sure to say that the vanguard, Liddy Steinberg, will overtake all five members!?)

Induced by Carol's announcement, the inside of the hall gets excited.

– Claire-sama, please let me go on the next fight.

Liddy returned to the waiting space and made her suggestion to Claire.

After the third duel, both her Vital and *energy* are almost depleted.

She will be able to get out in the next round with some margin.

Liddy went by herself as well.

However, Claire denied her.

– There are still path ahead, so let's minimize the consumption, okay?
Besides, I want to put Erika in the next match, don't you agree?

– That means that the next is me.

– That is the plan desuwa. Are you ready masuwayone?

– Of course.

In answer, Erika removes the glasses she was wearing and switches to another one.

– Vice-president, what are those? Are those glasses for fighting?

Erika answers to Emilia who's surprised.

– That is because the use of implements other than Hundred are prohibited in this competition.

– Oh, I see. Those glasses, have a lot of features.

– Yes, exactly.

Fixing the position of the glasses, Erika walks towards the center of the battlefield.

The fourth athlete of the team of Francois— — Louise Crocel, who arrived before at the center, told to Erika.

– Are you my opponent?

– Yes, I am. Are you dissatisfied?

Returned Erika, because Louise had a clear dissatisfying look.

– Yes, I am dissatisfied. Because I want to fight the Queen of Little Garden, Claire Harvey.

– ...the reason is?

– The leader of our team of Francois is the strong and beautiful Muriel Chanteur. Despise this, the audience is Claire Harvey here, Claire Harvey there, it has words only to the Queen of Little Garden. So I will quickly defeat Claire Harvey and put in shame that disgusting body and big breasts of hers, and show the world the wonderfulness of Francois's Army and its captain Muriel-sama.

– ...that's your goal. But, it's a shame. Neither you nor your captain will never fight Claire-sama. Because I will defeat you both.

– Keeping a straight face while bragging that with your big mouth, isn't it?

However, this will be done without delay. *HUNDRED ON!*

At the same time she shouted, a pointed sharp axe appeared on the arms of Louise.

Erika said, looking at her.

– Your armament is a Chevalier type, right?

– ...exactly. My family is a household of knights. That's why it's a Chevalier type, its name is <<Flashing Sword-Axe>> *Luxion*.

– My armament is an Arsene type. It is a special type, did you know it?

– I know that. It is basically a support type. It is not oriented for battle. It is better in a 3 v/s 3 rather than in a 1 v/s 1 battle, but it came out in a <<Knockout Competition>>.

– ...I am surprised. You look like a dumb person, I will have to do my investigations properly.

– Wha, what did you say!?

Louise shouted with an angry red face. Immediately after, the officer called them out.

– It is fine for you two to get excited and all but, I want to start the match soon...

– My apologies for that.

Erika grasped tightly the Hundred in her hands and shouted.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

The armor in the arms of Erika is——

Everlasting appears in her hands.

With this they are ready to go.

Carol's announcement sounds in the venue.

[Then, let's begin the match of Louise Crocel from team Francois and Erika Candle from team Little Garden!]

Louise attacks with the sounding of the buzzer.

(If she comes with that speed, then it won't be a big deal)

Erika dodged the slashing attack from *Luxion* that was swung down.

However, Louise didn't change the momentum.

– What do you think, its power is amazing, right?

Big dents were made in the battlefield and a cloud of dust arises.

– Although it is true that its power is great, there is no point unless you hit with it.

– If so, then I will do it until I hit you!

But, she didn't land a hit.

In response to that, Erika while using *Everlasting* like a whip, evaded the slashing attacks of *Luxion* and started to counterattack.

– What is it? It is not easy to avoid my attacks?

Certainly Erika is right.

Unlike the sword-axe, Erika's attacks are difficult to anticipate, as its shape and length can change freely.

But—

– Nevertheless, I won't let you get me!

It seemed as if Louise had dodged a powerful blow that Erika released.

But—

– ...huh?

Everlasting changed its movement like a living thing, and coiled around *Luxion* while spinning.

– It's a shame. But It looks like you couldn't dodge it.

– Tsk...! Something like this!

Holding the handle strongly with both hands so as to not let *Luxion* go, and while pulling it back, Louise was trying to break the chain.

Erika injects *energy* into *Everlasting*, allowing it to increase its hardness.

– It won't be an easy thing to destroy my energy-strengthened *Everlasting*.

While saying that, Erika creates a chain in the other hand.

– This will be the finishing touch.

– It won't be that simple!

– Huh!?

Louise, who reduced *Luxion* to particles, escaped from the chains.

Right after that moment, *Luxion* returned.

Then she slashed at Erika.

– Tsk, I missed the opportunity to bring you down.

She evaded it with a paper-thin difference.

The sword-axe strikes Erika's chest, scratching the Variable Suit.

– That decision just now was wonderful. Even though you came up with such a thing, it is not one that can be done on the spur of the moment.

– That arrogant attitude of yours is irritating!

Louise tries to pursue Erika who told her that impression from her heart, but it's stopped by *Everlasting*.

– Still, you stopped it with plenty of time. Do you really think that I can't cut it?

– That means that you can do it?

– I'm going to do it!!

Louise pours *energy* into *Luxion* while putting all of her strength into both arms.

And, finally—

– Hahaha, I was able to cut it, isn't it!?

Exactly as stated, Erika's *Everlasting* has been cut right in half.

– What do you think, with this your destiny is over!

As she was floating a smile on her face, Louise kept releasing slashes at Erika.

It's an overwhelming offensive.

However, Erika kept on dodging the slashes done by *Luxion* with precision.

– Kuuuuuh, so restless! If so, then how about this!

Louise unleashed the *energy* accumulated in *Luxion*.

– Take thiiiiis!

– ...k!

The blade of *energy* swooped down.

Erika, who guarded against it with E barrier, grinned and smiled, loosening her mouth.

– Why are you smiling? Are you telling me that it was not effective?

– That's not it.

– Then what is it?

– You said that you could cut it easily earlier. That was ridiculous, so I just smiled.

– What are you talking about? I don't get the reason. But the next hit, here it goes!

Louise raised *Luxion* overhead.

– So, you said you'll slash me.

Almost at the same time that Erika declared that.

– Eh?

Everlasting appears suddenly behind Louise and goes around her body.

– ——huh? What is the meaning, of this!?

– By cutting it, now you can't move the chain away from your hands—thinking about it, it has been your negligence, it led you to your own defeat.

The eyes on the other side of the lens have become sharp.

– Now, I will have the privilege of doing the humiliation that you tried to do to

Claire-sama.

Everlasting wrapped around the body of Louise casted light.

Then, the chain ties to her body with more strength.

As a result, Louise's breasts were pushed up, emphasizing their shape.

– It seems that if I want to do it, I can tear to pieces your Variable Suit at any time, so shall I do it?

Those words weren't a joke.

The *Everlasting* of Erika was at her chest, and a small tear could be heard.

There was a small crack at the chest of the Variable Suit.

Her breasts became more emphasized and the cheers of men rose from the auditorium.

(This, this is bad!)

In this way, the Suit will be torn down and the secret fruit that every young maiden has will be exposed to the whole world.

That's what Louise is thinking, as her face was dyed in deep red very fast.

– If you surrender, I will stop here.

She can't go against the words of Erika.

– ...it's, it's my defeat. I surrender...

– It's a shame, having to stop at this far.

Along with the buzzer of the end of the match, Erika extinguished *Everlasting*.

Erika turned her back to the trembling Louise who was hiding her chest with both hands, leaving the battlefield and returning to the waiting space.

– She is exactly like a demon, huh.

It was Fritz who muttered so.

– Yeah, it's a good idea to not make the Vice-president angry.

Following, Latia also leaves her impressions.

Then Erika returned there.

– Erika, you overdid it a little desuwayo.

It was Claire that suddenly gave a warning.

– That, Claire-sama.... My apologies. That is because she said that she would humiliate Claire-sama, so...

– Good grief...

Claire sighs.

– Nevertheless, your fight was good.

– Thank you very much!

She was happy for being praised.

Erika responded her appreciation with a smile in her whole face, and continued her words.

– So, Claire-sama. Shall I come to the next one?

– No, hearing those cheers, it seems you shouldn't go desuwa.

Those words, Erika noticed the calls rising from the audience seats.

If Erika comes out next and win, Claire won't appear.

Thus, the audience who wants to see Claire's fight continues to shout her name.

– That means that Claire-sama is coming out.

– Since they are demanding for me, I should respond to them. And in addition to that, there is <Duty that a person must take charge of> *Noblesse Oblige* desuwa.

Claire told the staff that the turn from Erika has changed to her.

The notice of the change of players is displayed in the vision of the stadium.

It's the entry of the Queen who they were waiting impatiently for.

Cheers like a rumble in the ground came up from the audience seats.

[Will this cheer become a pressure or perhaps a reinforcement——? At last, the Queen of Little Garden, Claire Harvey, makes her entrance!]

Following Carol's announcement in the premises, the stands are covered in grand applause and cheers.

While waving her hand to respond them, Claire head towards the center of the battlefield.

Karen was watching her figure in the official space at the upper part of the auditorium and muttered while sticking to the tempered glass.

– She is like an Idol.

– It's somewhat weird for us to say that though.

Sakura unintentionally smiled wryly.

Already in the middle of the battlefield, the captain of the team of Francois, Muriel Chanteur, is waiting.

She called out to Claire first.

– I am sorry for the disgraceful behavior of our Slayer just now.

– That is also the same for us. I think that it was Louise who provoked her.

Muriel presented her right hand to Claire.

– Nice to meet you <<Absolutely Invincible Queen>> *Perfect Queen*. I was looking forward to the day where I can fight with you.

– It is I who should say so, <<Princess Knight White Lily>> *Princess Lily*. I have heard of your name masuwa.

– It is such an honor.

– Let's do a good fight.

– Of course.

They firmly shook hands.

– That famous person is Muriel, isn't it?

Hayato asked.

A kind of surprised Emilia replied.

– She is pretty famous. She is the very Idol from the Kingdom of Francois. She

has a great popularity———hmm, that's so of Hayato, to not be interested in that.

– My bad.

– No, that's completely fine by me. Rather, it is a relief.

– ...a relief?

Similarly in the audience seats, Alphonse answers the question of Shuemei and Noah about the person's origin from the Kingdom of Francois.

– Muriel-san is a lady born in a family of knights who serve the Kingdom of Francois. Her Hundred's response value was high since her childhood so us, the men, have been a fan of hers for a long time. She is beautiful, we admire her.

– Sure, she is a very beautiful person. And if it's about her ability, she is also popular with that.

That's what Shuemei said.

– But, in terms of Slayer's ability, the Kingdom of Francois isn't that high, right? Their pride is even higher.

– Noah-san, to say such a harsh thing... But, nevertheless that's true. So, I think that this match is advantageous for the President. In the meaning of an Idol, it's the same for the President.

The match was already about to begin.

Following Carol's announcement, the buzzer of the start of the game sounds.

It's the first match that gets a lot of attention and loud cheers.

Moreover, the opponent is an influential person.

It's the Idol of the Kingdom of Francois.

Claire should be at least a little nervous.

Many people thought so, but she wasn't like that at all. Alphonse said that it was advantageous, but that's out of the question.

——it was overwhelming.

It was truly an overwhelming fight.

Muriel's Hundred is a Phalanx type, whose name is <<Spirit of a Pure Guardian Knight>> *Lily Franca*.

Her weapon is a huge lance. The handling as well as the skill of the Slayer are more than first-class.

However, Claire exceeded her not only once or twice, but three times.

Dodging the strikes of Muriel, she starts the offensive, her appearance is exactly like the Battle Princess herself.

– Kuuh, aah!

Muriel, who received a fist in the abdomen by Claire's fighting technique, was hit nonstop by the beams from the floating batteries, and collapsed.

However, she took an ukemi*.

***TN. The art of falling safely.**

She stands up right away, but the next bombardment of Claire is approaching there.

It's not from the floating batteries. It's a powerful thing from *Buster Cannon*.

– ...kuh!

—there is nothing more that can be done.

It is that kind of state.

But Muriel had a technique to survive it.

Holding the shield of the left hand in front of her, she deployed a defensive sphere charged with *energy*.

It dispersed the attack of Claire, vanishing it.

– I thought that it was my win, but you made it masuwane.

– That's not everything that you have.

The two of them smiled to each other.

– As expected, at this rate it will be one-sided. I am not very fond of heavy equipment but, I am going full armament.

Muriel, who put the spear in the sky said so, wrapping herself in green light, which is the color of her *energy*.

And when that light went out.

There was a thick armor on her torso.

In addition, a floating battery similar to a shield that embodied a white rose appears slightly above her both shoulders.

– How about this!

Lasers were released from the two floating batteries.

Claire jumps high to dodge them, and retaliates firing beams from the railgun in her arms.

Muriel against that, she blocked them with the shield.

And— —



– Waa!?

The attack didn't go as Claire supposed to.

Muriel threw the shield.

It splendidly hits Claire.

Claire, who has lost her balance in the air, falls immediately to the ground.
[Whooa, the participant Claire is down! She is down! The participant is doing a comeback with her full armament!?!]

Claire thinks about the shout of Carol that she heard.

(That announcement is an exaggeration desuwane)

Actually, the damage is minimal.

Claire rapidly got up.

– I will do it masuwane. That is, I will also be in full armament masuwa.

Claire says to Muriel who grabbed the shield that came back like a boomerang.

– I am going masuwayo!

Shouted Claire, as her body is enveloped in green light *energy*.

After a short time, Claire's red armor appeared from the light, her whole body is covered unlike before.

At the same time she reveals herself, Claire shouts.

<<Small Floating Batteries>> *Petals!*

Twelve small floating batteries ejected from the six floating batteries, assaulting Muriel.

Up and down, left and right— —

But that's not all, it's an offensive from 360 degrees.

But Muriel defended properly against all the beams emitted from the small floating batteries. By placing the shield in the sky, a wide area barrier appeared to cover her body.

However, Claire didn't take a break from her attack.

She injects energy into *Buster Cannon* that she created with the six floating batteries in that gap.

She released it towards Muriel.

Muriel tried to protect herself by putting the shield immediately in front of her, but the power was too strong.

Although she was able to defend against the bombardment, her body was sent flying backwards and fell to the battlefield.

Buster Cannon returned to six floating batteries, and Claire starts to go after her again.

While rolling over the battlefield, Muriel got up, avoiding the beams emitted from the floating batteries, searching for the figure of Claire.

– I am here desuwayo.

At the same time of those words, a solid thing touched her back.

It is the railgun on the right arm of Claire.

Judging that, Muriel smiled with a puff and raised both hands, cancelling her armament.

– I lost.

The buzzer marking the end of the match reverberates at the stadium.

It was more than enough, the audience seemed satisfied due to the wonderful long fight of the two people.

The cheers dominated the stadium.

Not only the cheers celebrating the overwhelming victory of Claire, but also to Muriel who lost, as it is said that she did it well.

– Uu, Muriel-sama has...

Louise crumbles down.

In the opposite waiting space, Erika had a triumphant expression on her face.

– It was an enjoyable fight.

– I am honored for you to say that. The next time, I will definitely win.

– I will do my best effort to not lose masu.

Thus the second round of Little Garden is over.

The result is 5-3*, Little Garden made it through the second round.

***TN: this might be an error from the author/editor, since only Liddy and Erika fought before Claire. It should be 5-2.**

The advance to the third round was settled.

– As expected of Claire-sama. It was a wonderful fight.

It was Erika who quickly ushered in to Claire who returned to her teammates.

– Not at all. The people from the audience seats received it with most pleasure desuwa.

– For the moment, we didn't win leisurely. It will be possible for us to win as things are?

– Don't let your mind wander like that. If you create a momentary gap, that could be lethal. This competition is like that.

Liddy immediately sets a warning, in regards to the cracking joke of Latia.

– Hmm, sure the next opponent is...

– Al Salaam.

Regarding Emilia, Krovahn replied.

He is looking at the huge vision that is set up in the stadium.

– Oh...

There, the next opponent of Little Garden, the ones with which they have to fight in the second round are displayed, the Slayers of Al Salaam.

– ...judging from Al Salaam, they are a rival company of Warslan. I recall that they have never lose against Little Garden in infrastructure.

Erika mutters while staring at the vision.

– That means that it will be a tough fight then?

– It can be said that masuwa.

Answering, Claire continued.

– We will take a break after this masu. For those of you who weren't on today's match, move to the training room. Understood desuwa?

The other 7 people, who parted ways with Claire, Liddy and Erika were heading to the training room, which is in the stadium.

Those are facilities that are open only to contestants of team battles that have won. However, there are only two of them.

As a result, in order to decide their use, teams can make reservations of two hours, no more than that.

So for the next two hours, the[TRAINING ROOM A]is reserved to Little Garden.

– It seems like the guys from before have just ended, huh.

Opening the door of the training room, Latia saw the Slayers coming out from there, and whispered into Fritz's ear, with her eyes opened wide in surprise.

– Hey, those guys...

– They are our next opponents. So don't pick a fight like the fellow Slayers of Rasiya, okay?

– Huh!? That was because they were looking up for a fight and I went for it. So it wasn't me who wanted to pick a fight. And don't treat me like a mad dog!

– Alright alright, I get it, I get it. You are never the one to blame. The other party is always in the wrong.

– Muuh, don't make fun of me!

Latia, who was struck in the head with a *pop-pop*, flared at Fritz baring her canine teeth.

– Both of you, stop flirting so much like that.

To Emilia who is teasing them while laughing, the face of Latia blushes and objects that.

– We are not flirting at all! I’m refuting to this who is looking down on me!

A person, then another one, the Slayers from Al Salaam are coming out from the training room.

One of them stops his feet and looks at the face of Krovahn, staring at him.

– Hmm? You need something?

Krovahn raised his voice, glaring back at him.

– Not at all!

Screaming, the man stiffen his expression and rushed to Krovahn.

However, in an instant the other members of Al Salaam seized him, binding the arms behind his back.

Among them, was Aly Harlech who participated in <<Operation: Bird in Cage>> with Latia and Fritz.

– Stop it, Bekher!

– They are our next opponent!

– ...I’m sorry. I’m already calm.

Bekher escaped from the pinioning of his teammates, but the hostility towards Krovanh hasn’t changed. Looking at Krovanh, Nakri and Nesat with a sharp gaze, Bekher said.

– You don’t seem to remember me, huh.

– ...you? Why are you including me?

– I see.

Bekher nods and answers.

Then, he looks down, and while shaking his fist, he kept speaking.

– At the time of <Operation: Bird in Cage>>, you, to us...

– ...oh, it was that.

So Krovanh understood what Bekher was going to say.

This man was one of the Slayers who they beat at that time and robbed his Hundred.

– I was in the wrong that time. And I regret it. So, forget it. I'm different from that time already.

Just as Claire told them to don't have a dispute, Krovanh talks.

However, that seems to have the opposite effect on him.

– That will never be forgotten!

The man step forward with his feet and hit hard the cheek of Krovanh.

A sudden attack.

Moreover, it had a considerable momentum.

Krovanh is knocked down in the back, pressing against the floor with his buttocks.

– ...the hell.... What are you doing!?

– Krovanh shouted, trying to raise his body.

Bekher started to grab him, and raised his arm overhead.

– Because of you, My buddy! Jia is!

– You guys, please stop.

Due to that voice, Bekher stopped his arm.

– Don't tell me, you are...

-Bekher's eyes became round.

– ...President? Why are you here...?

It was Hayato who asked.

Looking at her, not only the President but also Erika and Liddy are on both sides.

– While you were at it, we took a shower and changed clothes desuwa. And taking the opportunity, we came to see the situation of you, and good grief...

Partially amazed, Claire sighs.

– Then, why are you fighting?

– Hmm, well...

Hayato was about to begin explaining, looking at Claire.

Brushing aside Bekher and standing up, Krovanh said.

Because of that, Bekher fell on his backside.

– This guy suddenly attacked me! I didn't do anything!

– Don't lie! My buddy is— — Jia is hospitalized because of you!

– I already apologized for that!

– Shut up!

Standing up, Bekher caught Krovanh one more time.

The two of them are entangled, mounting each other.

– How marvelous...

Erika sighed with amaze, murmuring while taking the Hundred with her hands.

– ...*Hundred On...*

Erika created *Everlasting* in her hand, turned towards them and said.

– If you keep this dispute, I will bind you with this.

Going that far, they finally calmed down. They separated in complete silence.

Hayato was able to finally tell the situation to Claire.

– ...I grasped the situation.

Then, Claire has a troubling look on her face, *what to do now?*

– ...Bekher-san, am I correct? I understand your feelings well, so I will not say to you to forgive them. However, there were some circumstances with them in those days, and now they are sorry, devoting themselves to Little Garden to make this world better. They are our comrades desu.

After a brief period of time, Claire raised her tone a little.

– ...as you are, shouldn't we be angry for hurting our comrade masuwayo?

He finally calmed down in response to those words.

– ...my apologies.

Bekher lowered his head and apologized.

– Certainly, I may have become too emotional. I'm guilty in regard to this. If you like, could you hit me?

– ...ha?

What the hell are you saying, Krovanh is surprised.

– Because I hit you with force. I want you to write off that I hit you by hitting me.

– You are really stupid, huh.

Looking like complaining, Krovanh smiled with a grin.

– But I don't dislike that. President, this guy said that it was fine. Can I hit him?

– ...well, that...

Claire is baffled.

It was Fritz who butted into the conversation.

– If the other side said that it was fine with it, I think, that isn't it fine to do it?

– ...yo, you are correct desuwane.... If it it's mutual, then I give my consent...

– That decided it. I'll go with all that I have.

– ... fine be me, do what you want.

Krovanh puts on the run and hits the cheek of the man in a careful posture with full power.

Latia murmured while looking at the man's body being blown around ten meters behind, while stiffing her cheeks.

– ...whatever the circumstances may be, isn't that an overkill?

Wasn't that more than five times the power when Krovanh was hit?

However, Nakri affirms that there's no problem.

– If you think about it as a reparation fee, then I believe that it wasn't particularly an overkill. Besides, the other party said that it was okay.

Ascertain something like that, Bekher said towards Krovanh.

– With this everything is set. Don't you think?

– Yeah, no problem.

– In the case you get to fight on the match of the day after tomorrow, then it will be a fair and square fight between fellow Slayers. Don't you agree desuwane?

Krovanh and Bekher nodded together.

After the Slayers of Al Salaam have gone away.

– I'm sorry. Due to us.

She felt the responsibility as her sister.

Nesat apologized without a moment's delay to Claire.

Thereupon, smiling unintentionally,

– You do not have to apologize, Nesat Olfred. Above all, we spared damage because the other party was reasonable.

– Uh huh, unlike that nasty muscle daruma of Rasiya.

That's what Latia said.

A little astounded, Fritz sighs.

– You really dislike that guy, huh.

– Obviously! Not only the ring, but also what he did to Touka! Even Hayato detests that guy, isn't it?!

– Eh, me...?

– What is that reaction!? After what he did to Touka, didn't you say caustic

words to him!? ‘I will defeat you’, right!?

– Latia Saint Émillion, please calm down a bit.

Due to that voice, not only Latia, but the rest of them were taken aback.

– Charo, why are you here?

Emilia asks.

– Why you say, I came only to see the state of your training, but it seems it hasn’t begun yet.

Ha-ha-ha, Charlotte laughs, and continued.

– Let me say one thing. The Hundred doesn’t respond to anger, but to your feelings. So be careful about that point. If it’s only anger, then it’s swallowing your own power.

Hayato was able to understand what Charlotte wants to say though it is a roundabout way of saying. After all, there were many times where Hayato was in danger.

So, Hayato nodded and answered.

– Yes, I understand.

– The rest of you got it too?

The rest of the members with the exception of Hayato also answered [Yes] with their voices gathered.

Of course, Latia too.

Charlotte shows a satisfying smile on her face.

– Very well. If so, please start training.

And the day before the match against Al Salaam.

The time was eight o’clock in the evening. It’s time for the ordinary strategy meeting to begin.

Therefore Hayato and his friends were called to a room in the hotel.

– The members that will come out to participate in the fight with Al Salaam— —you want to appear, am I correct?

Claire points her gaze to Krovanh, Nakri and Nesat and asks to confirm their intention.

– Of course.

The first one who nodded was Krovanh. Following him, Nakri and Nesat declare while shifting their attention as if they were appealing to Claire.

– I want to participate too.

– Me too.

– Understood tawa.

Just like she expected to come.

Claire smiled in response to the determination of the three.

– Judging from the order of things, it will be your turn to participate desu. However— —.

Then, a short pause.

Claire sharpens her discernment and continues her words of warning to the three of them.

– As it was said before, forget any personal grudge. And as Slayers of Little Garden, fight fair and square desu. Are we clear desuwane?

– Yeah, I get it. Nakri and Nee-chan too, right?

– ...yup.

Following the nod of Nesat, Nakri declared.

– For the victory of Little Garden, we will fight with all of our strength.

Fighting as Slayers of Little Garden, and without personal grudge.

Other than that, there was one more thing that the Olfred brothers were ordered to do from Claire.

That is, to sleep early in preparation for tomorrow's match.

Therefore, Krovanh and his sisters returned to the room after the meeting, then got into the bath and decided to sleep right away.

The hands of the clock are near 10 pm. There were 12+ hours to the beginning of the match.

– Are both of you still awake?

Around 5 minutes have passed since each of them got into the futon.

Nakri lie on the bed closest to the window and asked, murmuring with a small voice.

– Yeah, I'm awake.

The one who answered is Krovanh who sleeps in the middle bed.

Continuing, Nesat also replies.

– ...I'm awake too.... Nakri, what's wrong?

– No no, there's nothing wrong, don't worry. It's just—

– Just, what?

– I hope that the three of us can fight together tomorrow.

Saying that by herself, she felt a little shy.

Nakri hides half of her face in the futon.

– What you mean is that, the <<3 vs 3>> match format is perfect for us.

– ...yeah.

Nodding, Nakri continues.

– We've been fighting together for a long time.

So, she wants to fight together in this competition.

That's what Nakri hopes for.

– Is that so?

He murmurs.

This time, Krovanh said firmly.

– Won't that be great?

Krovanh recalls that it was a year ago or so.

It was when he broke free from the forced labor facility of the Kingdom of Khmer.

At that time, they were only Nesat and Krovanh.

Then, around two months passed.

The two got Slayer's abilities as artificial Variant and were supposed to move according to Vitaly's orders, like hunting Savage and robbing Hundred from the Slayers.

...however, like a machine, they were mention only about the duties that was to be done.

The girl that was a relative of them and with which they were separated from her before being put into the forced labor facility.

They continued their investigation to find Nakri,

– Nee-chan, listen to this! Nakri's whereabouts may have been found!

It's the place where they live.

Under the cooperation of anti-Slayer groups, established on the hillside of the mountain range in the middle of the continent of Eurasia is the laboratory of Vitaly.

It's late at night.

Krovanh, who went to the neighboring town, rushed impatiently to the simple bedroom with only two beds.

– ...it's that true?

– Yeah, without a doubt.

Entering the room, Krovanh continued.

– About the time when we were just brought in, I got the information that there are forced labor facilities with children brought in from the same area.

– !

The expression of Nesat also gets brighter.

Three months have passed since the investigation started.

They finally got information that connects with Nakri.

– ...let's go, to confirm it?

– Uh huh.

Nodding, Krovanh continued.

– There's a considerable distance from here to the facility, but there are also reports of Savage in the vicinities. So let's say that we are going to investigate. Even if the survey itself can't be done, if there's a Slayer, she won't complain if we rob a Hundred, right?

They don't know how it's done, but Vitaly was constantly watching the movements of Krovanh and Nesat.

However, if they carry out their mission and then return to this place, she won't complain about whatever they do.

Only four rules are decided on that.

Number one, if you get to obtain a Savage's core, *Variable Stone* or Hundred, bring it back home.

Number two, this laboratory must not be found by any means.

Number three, don't leak to the Slayers that you are an artificial Variant.

Number four, in case of leaking information, you will die.

That's all.

The next day, Krovanh immediately told Vitaly to head to recon Savage and left the laboratory with Nesat.

Three days after that, they arrived to the side of the facility in the Kingdom of Khmer.

The facility is surrounded by huge walls.

When they were checking with binoculars from the top of a nearby building from where they should break in, they noticed that there was a construction site close to it.

It seems that the boys and girls are taken from the forced labor facility and put to work there.

– Maybe Nakri is in there. I can't distinct her face, can you see her, Nee-chan?

– Give me a minute.

Nesat removed the eye patch of her right eye, and gazed at the construction site with her golden eye. That right eye was administered by Vitaly, it's a special lens. She is able to zoom like a camera.

– How is it, is Nakri there?

– Keep silent for a bit.

– ...okay.

The silence appeared.

It took just about a minute to pass.

– Ah...!

The voice leaked out from the mouth of Nesat.

– What is it, Nee-chan! It's Nakri?

– No, that's not it. But, there was a familiar face.

– A familiar face? Who?

– Hasan.

That's the name of the boy who is from the same village.

The expression of Krovanh gets suddenly cheerful.

– I get it, Hasan is in there! Then, there is a high possibility that Nakri is there too!

– Do you want to ask Hasan?

– Of course.

Krovanh and Nesat moved without being detected by guards, and headed to Hasan.

– Hey, Hasan.

– Eh, Krovanh? And... Nesat?

He is in the middle of carrying a sandbag.

Hasan was suddenly called out, so of course he had his eyes round in surprise.

But it seems he can't understand why they are here.

– Don't worry about that, come here.

Krovanh brings Hasan into a place hidden from view.

– Don't speak aloud. If a security guard find us, it will be troublesome.

– That's the same for me. Then what the hell is going on? Why are you guys here?

– We, we sneaked out from the facility that we were living in.

– EH!?

– So, we are looking for Nakri now. Where is she? You are in that labor facility, don't you? There was information that Nakri is in there.

– ...that's true, Nakri was also housed there with me. But, she has already gone.

– Huh? What do you mean?

– The Mayor of Chenan city came just last week and took someone with him. Nakri was bought.

– Fuck!

Krovanh hits the near wall with a fist. He thought that he could have his long-awaited encounter again, but that was postponed. He's frustrated.

– ...what will you do?

– We have decided to go there. We must absolutely rescue Nakri. So, Hasan.

What are you going to do?

– Eh, me?

– Would you like to come with us? If you like, we can smash to pieces that facility. In that situation, you and your friends will be free, what do you say? I have that power now.

– No, it's fine.

Shaking his head horizontally, Hasan answered.

– Why?

– Because I don't have the courage to leave this place. I don't have much physical strength either. Besides, the village where we lived is gone, isn't it? Then, I don't have a place to go. As long as I do manual labors, I can eat meals. The minimum daily necessities are guaranteed. That much is enough.

– Is enough you say, then you will work here until you die? How would you prefer that!?

– I do. Anyway, I will die if I get out of here. If I can live a little, then I'll remain here. That's my life. I'm not strong like Krovanh.

– ...I understand. Then, do what you want.

Clenching his fist in frustration, Krovanh said.

– See you later, Hasan.

After that Nesat and Krovanh, about the man who bought Nakri. They decided to investigate the Mayor of Chenan city.

His name seems to be Bukit.

He's from the second generation of weapon merchants who amassed his fortune by selling weapons to the private military company Al Salaam, and he took the seat of Mayor with a large bribe and used the army and Slayers hired from Al Salaam to demonstrate his tyranny, or that's what it's said.

Some of them say that he also purchased girls to his pleasure and treated them like slaves in the palace, so Krovanh and Nesat felt disgusted.

(Nakri, please be safe!)

Krovanh and Nesat went towards the palace, the place of Bukit, in the city of Chenan. A distance of two days. Then they finally reached that place.

– ...the city is quite ruined, but the palace is ludicrous.

On the huge tree on the side of the palace, Krovanh spat out.

This luxurious palace is the result of tyranny.

He forced the citizens the most impossible, that's why he is the only one living a good life. There's also information that Bukit is fat like a pig.

– What do we do, Krovanh?

Nesat asked because the security of the palace is quite severe.

Many people who look like Slayers can also be seen.

– There's no choice but to defeat them one by one to not cause an uproar. Then, we locate Nakri. Let's trespass through there.

– Understood.

Nesat nodded and responded to Krovanh, who gazed at the shadowed part of the entire residence.

They moved along the branches of the tree closest to the entry point they decided before.

After that, they jumped into the grounds.

– Let's go, Nee-chan.

– ...uh huh.

Krovanh deploys <<Double-edge of Rebellion>> *Orthos Liberio** in his hand.

Nesat nodded and *traced on* what is in the hand of Krovanh, and jumped inside the residence together.

– Where on earth is she?

Since they entered the grounds of the palace, they have already defeated nearly ten guards.

Around a third of them, that is, four of them were Slayers, but there weren't artificial Variants as opponents.

There are no injuries at all in neither of them.

It is late at night, so they are defeated before they can raise their voices, there's no one aware of the intruders other than those who are knocked down.

For now, it is easy for them to collect the Hundred, so they kill two birds with one stone.

But, there was a problem.

It is still unknown to them where Nakri is.

As a result of interrogating a Slayer, they understood that the girls who are treated as slaves by Bukit are in the basement, but there's no stairway leading to the underground.

– Hey, Krovanh.

– ...what is it?

– There's still one person over there.

– It's an ordinary guard. Let's ask him.

Krovanh sneaked behind him and caught the man who was guarding nearby.

What they heard is that the stairs are hidden beyond the nearby wall.

– Nee-chan, please try looking around.

A button was found immediately.

She pushed it, and the hidden door opened.

Looking inside, Nesat said.

– There's a stairway.

– Hmm, it seems you weren't lying after all.

– Of course, then my life is——

– Don't be so noisy.

Krovanh hit the base of the neck of the trembling man using his hand like a sword.

He makes sure he is fainted and goes down the stairs with Nesat.

There were passageways so that two people could pass.

There are no signs of security or people.

There are only three doors.

Krovanh first puts a hand on the nearest door.

– It's locked.

– There might be a key for this door.

Nesat presented a bunch of keys.

– Where was this stuff?

– It was hanging over there.

– I see.

There was a nail hammered on the door. It seems that the keys were in there.

– This didn't do it. What about... this?

The second key was entered and the lock gave in.

–

What is reflected in the eyes of Krovanh who opened the door was a narrow room surrounded by concrete like a prison.

There are five girls wearing thin clothing, and because Krovanh and Nesat abruptly came in sight, they became frightened.

(Nakri isn't here...)

Looking at the girls, Krovanh muttered in his mind.

But these young women, like Nakri, must be girls who came to this palace bought by Bukit. That's the information they were able to get.

– Hey you, do you know Nakri?

There's no reply to Krovanh's question.

All of the girls, their bodies are trembling as if they were frightened.

– Krovanh. Don't scare them.

– ...oh, I see. Then, if that's so.... Well, we are not suspicious guys at all. So please tell me. Don't you know a girl named Nakri? She is about the same age as you. We, we are relatives of Nakri. So then, we came here to save her. If you get to know something, please tell us— —

– We-, well...

A girl raised her hand with a slow pace.

– Nakri was taken away.

– What did you say!?

– *Eek!*

The girl frightened due to the reaction of Krovanh.

– Ah, my bad.

Calming down, Krovanh continues.

– Where was she taken, and, who did it?

– She was taken a moment ago. The location is probably the room just ahead. So, from now on, Nakri is, uuh, uh...

While the shoulders of the girl are shaking, she burst into tears.

A girl of the same age who was at the side comforted the girl.

She turns her eyes to Krovanh.

– ...please, please save Nakri....

– Eh?

– Don't let that child become like us. Nakri is different from us, she is still pure. Please rescue her before she is defiled...

They called each other's names and embraced each other, raised their voices and cried.

The other girls are just staring that scene with lifeless eyes.

– Let's go, Nee-chan.

– ...okay.

They surely wanted to ask something.

But now they must head for Nakri as soon as possible.

They left the room with the girls and decided to head where Nakri is, the room of Bukit—

There was Bukit and Nakri in the room now.

Compared to the size of the residence, it is a very small room.

The majority of the room is occupied by a huge bed where 5 people can sleep in it.

Speaking of other things, Nakri is now sitting on the sofa and a short table is in front of her.

Still, for Nakri who had lived at the forced labor facility for many years, even though the room is magnificent, she feels completely calm.

– Why are you using me? Why is this happening to me...?

Nakri was put in a room like a prison after living in this residence for a week, along with five girls. And three times, every day. Only a small amount of food is handed over.

Apart from eating, there's nothing to do. But that's normal. Nothing has changed that much up to now.

It may be okay to not do painful forced labors.

When she heard that she was bought by Bukit, she thought that even more suffering was awaiting.

But it seems that's not the case.

On the contrary, she first took a bath after she came to this palace.

She feels refreshed, and very comfortable.

However, there was just a worrying smell of fish somewhere in the room.

She came here around a week ago. Two people came every day and a girl is taken out of the room at night.

Every time a girl came back, there was a similar smell from their body.

But Nakri doesn't know what smell it is.

Even if she asked, nobody told her.

– I will tell you in a moment. Before that, try this. You are hungry, isn't it?

– ...eh?

After taking a shower and having been changed to new clothes. In front of Nakri's eyes sitting on the sofa, Bukit put a bag containing bread.

Nakri's eyes shined, as a matter of course.

– Can I eat it?

Strawberry bread.

It's a great treat that can be eaten once a month at the facility.

– I was hoping for you to say so. You can eat as much as you want.

Nakri holds the bag with her hands, and quickly began to eat the bread in it. It is a very tasty bread filled with strawberry jam.

Munch Munch, Nakri eats it.

– If you only eat bread you will be thirsty. You can drink this too.

Bukit puts a cup of tea on the table in front of the sofa.

That's also a treat for her.

Nakri disposes herself to drink the black tea that Bukit presented.

– What do you think, was it delicious?

– Yeah!

It was very sweet and delicious.

Nakri replied with a smile in her whole face.

– Then, talking abo—hu-, huh...?

Somehow, the view in front of her eyes is strange.

The contours of the world became ambiguous and blurry.

– What is, this...?

– It seems that it works.

Smiling, Bukit loosened his mouth.

– It's effective.

The meaning of the words can't be understood by Nakri.

– From now on you are my meal time.

– Me-, meal?

– That's right.

Bukit holds Nakri's body with his arms.

– Hey, what are...?

Nakri's body was moved over the bed.

– Well, let's get started.

Bukit puts his hand on Nakri's coat, throwing it down and made her roll over the bed, looking upwards.

There, Nakri understood what he was going to do from that point.

(I see, so that's—)

After leaving the room, the girls returned back crying.

Surely, what was going to be done to her, it was going to be done by Bukit.

– Stop, don't touch me!

Nakri acts violently and attempts to separate Bukit's body.

However, Bukit conversely held down Nakri's body.

– The drug is still not working perfectly.

– 'Drug'...?

– A drug with an aphrodisiac effect. Anyway, be obedient. You were bought by me. If you don't move, it won't be a bad thing. On the contrary, you will feel good.

– Da...

Her body gradually became hot, and in addition the strength didn't flow into her.

She can't resist him anymore.

– Alright, it looks like it's almost time.

DON!

The sound that echoed in the room was almost simultaneous with Bukit's hand hanging on his pants.

– ...the hell?

While surprised by the sound that echoed in the room, Bukit stares at the door.

– Who's there? The best part starts from here. Come back later.

– What do you call a good thing, huh?

Along with that voice, the door flew.

– What, what the...

Bukit stares in wonder looking at the boy and girl with dark skin that appeared inside the room.

The boy had a huge twin sword in his hand.

A girl with an eye patch standing next to him has also a twin sword in her hand.

Bukit is not the only one surprised to see them.

Nakri is surprised too.

– Krovanh... and, Nesat... aren't you?

While blinking incessantly, Nakri asks the question.

– Yup, we are.

– Nakri, we came to save you.

Following Nesat, Krovanh said.

Tears float in Nakri's eyes.

– It's not a dream. To see you...

Nakri tried to go towards Nesat and Krovanh.

But Bukit pinned down her body from behind.

– ...who, who the hell are you!?

Holding strongly tight with one hand the body of Nakri as it is, Bukit asked.

– That's the same for you. What are you trying to do to my <<younger stepsister>> *younger sister*, huh?

– Yo-, younger sister?

– Yes, I came to take back my younger stepsister——to take back Nakri.

– Eek!

Krovanh kept *Orthos Liberio* at hand, and approached the frightened Bukit.

– In-, intruders! Someone, someone do something quickly to this boy and girl!

While shouting, Bukit pulled the string at hand, the sound of a furious bell echoed through the premises. But nobody is coming to this place.

– Wh-, what does this mean? Why is nobody...

– There's no one who can fight.

– Huh?

To Bukit which is surprised with his eyes rounded, Krovanh thrust the pointed end of *Orthos Liberio*.

– We knocked down the Slayers, the guards, all of them.

– That's, impossible...

– It's not a lie. Release Nakri.

– Eek! Okay. I release her. Since I released her, my life is——

– You want us to spare you?

– Ye... yeah...!

Bukit nods.

However, Krovanh didn't draw *Orthos Liberio*.

– What have you done so far for those who asked for help? Did you allow it?

– Eek, what are you saying....

Bukit separated from Nakri, and moved backwards.

– In the past, I was weak. I didn't have the power. At that time, this is what I was told. It's the survival of the fittest of this world, after all. The weak are destined to be eaten by the mighty. With that said, I was on the side who are eaten. However, with the power I possess I turned to the side who eats——

The eyes of Krovanh who raised *Orthos Liberio* shed a golden light.

– Ri-, right, don't you want to be my bodyguards? Three years——no, one year is fine. And then you will money to spend for the rest of your life.

– I refuse.

Krovanh replied immediately.

It must be a lie anyway.

Bukit it's in a situation where he has already been cornered close to the wall.

He knows that he was just begging for his life.

– Shit... you demon!!

– Haha, hahahaha!

Being called a demon, Krovanh laughed like being broken.

– A demon.... That can be. But you got the power by becoming a demon. Besides, you said that I was a demon, but shouldn't we the ones to say that?

– Eee———k!

– ——die.

While Bukit tried to escape crawling on his back, Krovanh swung down *Orthos Liberio*.

– Guhaa!

It was in a flash.

And there, Bukit couldn't move.

– Dirty blood.

– Krovanh!

Nakri, who started walking with a staggering footstep, got back to Krovanh who wiped away the blood and released his armament, and clung to him, like leaning on him.

– It's been a while, Nakri.

Krovanh smiled, stroking the head that is pushing against his chest.

– Krovanh, I, I...!

While crying, Nakri started to talk there. In a low voice, Nesat called them out.

– ...Krovanh, it's about time...

– Yeah, I know.

The sound of a siren was coming from afar.

They noticed the alarm sound didn't stop ringing, the police started to move.

That's why—

Smiling at Nakri, Krovanh said.

– For now, let's move from here. There's something wrong with the rest of the others. You have plenty of things that you have to talk, isn't it? We will have a lot of time from now on—

The three of them left Bukit's palace and three days later they returned to the hideout of Vitaly located in a complicated place in the mountain.

They returned home after a week or so.

Still, Vitaly never got angry.

– I grasped that you were doing something secretly, but well, you were trying to rescue your younger stepsister, don't you?

Vitaly said impressed. She stood up from the front of the computer with the

cigarette holding it with her mouth and came close to the boys.

– It was a serious matter for us. Besides, there were a lot of guys on the residence of Bukit who were Slayers, so we took their Hundred. Please forgive us.

Vitaly catches the bag that Krovanh has thrown and checks the inside.

– I'm surprised, this is a large quantity. You weren't chased, correct?

– That should be fine. We took care of that properly.

It's Nesat who answered that.

– ...I see...

Vitaly put the bag containing the Hundred on the desk and pressed the cigarette on the ashtray near her, then continued her words.

– Let me hear another thing. How much have you told to the girl?

– How much you say... about the power of the Variant?

– Yes, about that matter.

Vitaly nods.

Nesat also answered that.

– We haven't talked about the details yet. However, she wants to receive the power of the Slayer and live together with us. We talked about that much.

– ...so, what do you pretend to do? Are you saying that you intent to live here together with that girl, isn't it?

Vitaly holds a new cigarette in her mouth and ignites it.

– Of course.

Krovanh replied immediately.

– For that reason, we will do anything. So—

– So let her also be a Variant. With that, our wish will be granted.

– Hey, the hell are you saying!?

Krovanh angrily touched Vitaly's collar.

The cigarette that Vitaly was holding drops to the floor.

– That’s dangerous, you know. What are you doing?

– We already know that the chance that the treatment will succeed is low. That we have become Variants it’s pretty much a miracle!

– ...but she has the same blood running in her veins than you guys. Your body is manipulating a stable Variant Virus, so the chances of success will surely be high.

– You expect us to believe that argument!?

Krovanh pushed Vitaly’s body.

– You don’t have to believe it. To begin with, you guys have no choice. Besides that, there’s no way for you three to stay together.

– Damn it!

It was Nakri who put a hand on the shoulder of Krovanh that tried to flare up at Vitaly who picked up the cigarette.

– I believe you.

– ...eh?

Turning his head, Krovanh said.

– I believe you, you say, what are you talking about?

– If I become a Variant, then I can be with Krovanh and Nesat, don’t you agree? So if that’s the case, then I’m going to become a Variant too.

– No way! There are possibilities of dying in the process. No, they might be even higher for you!

– ...but, both of you made it through, right? I want to join you. Therefore, I’m serious. There’s no way that I’ll die. No matter what happens. Because we promised. That we’ll be together. If that can’t be, then I’d rather die!

When Vitaly heard those words, she smiled with a puff and continued speaking.

– ...then let’s get ready right away. And hey, there’s really nothing to be

worried about. With that strong will, she will definitely succeed. And, just like you two, she will obtain strength. If you want to change the world, then strength is——

Thus, Nakri decided to be injected with Variant Virus.

And three days later——

At last, that moment came.

– Are you really sure?

– Yeah, there's no problem.

Nakri responded firmly to Vitaly, who asked to make sure of it.

– No matter what happens, it'll be fine. If I think that I can be with Krovanh and Nesat, then hell isn't scary.

– Then here I go.

Nakri was quite cheerful, but also a little scared of the injection.

As her whole body was constantly shaking, Variant Virus collected from Krovanh and Nesat are injected.

(Like hell I'll lose!)

It was harsher than death, overcoming the painful time, until they were finally able to meet again. How it was supposed to all of that end there? She will definitely overcome it.

Nakri had a strong will.

Nevertheless——

Immediately after being injected with the Variant Virus, and just like Krovanh and Nesat, she suffered so much that she writhed in pain on the bed.

– Hold on, hold on, Nakri!

– Nakri, you can do it.

Krovanh standing by the bed is desperately calling out Nakri while holding her hand.

Nesat, standing on the opposite side, also held her hand in the same way and

was calling her name.

– ...thank you, both.... I'll absolutely endure it. I'll never lose to such a th... lose to, aaah, aaaaaaaah!!

Nakri felt the sensation of insects rampaging in her body as she endured the heat. She felt ill, her body was hot.

She was breathing with difficulty.

Eventually, even words can't be emitted. Only moans and an anguished voice leaked out from her mouth—.

– All that remains after here is if she makes it through the night or not. Overcoming that, in two days the Variant Virus will become familiar with her body and then she should wake up. As a Variant, that is.

– Hey, Vitaly. Where are you going?

– There are a lot of research and experiments for me to do. I can't stay with you all the time. If anything goes wrong, then call me.

After a while, the state of Nakri has calmed down. However, she can't be relieved.

That is, because she doesn't know when the situation could get worse again.

Therefore, Krovanh has been next to Nakri.

And then, at that time, ten hours after the injection of Variant Virus—

It came around very late at night.

Suddenly Nakri raised her body from the bed, and a strange voice began to be emitted.

– Hey! Calm down, Nakri!

Krovanh tries to hold down the body of Nakri, but he was blown off with a strong force.

– ...Nakri...

Seeing her, her eyes were dyed in golden color. It's the evidence that the body of Nakri has been taken over by the Variant Virus.

The power of the Variant is running wild.

– Uaaaa—h!

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Nakri came down from the bed and attacked Krovanh.

– Hey, wait. Calm down, Nakri!

Saying that, Krovanh tries to hold down the body of Nakri.

However, he was conversely pressed down.

– Damn, her force is too strong!

– Wait. I'll try something.

– Something you say—



Nessat put her hands on the cheeks of Nakri and turned her face, and without

a moment's delay snatched her lips.

– Nee-chan, what are you...?

– I heard from Vitaly that if she lose control, she will calm down if we do this.

Nesat kissed Nakri again.

The effect of suppressing the Variant Virus is by transmitting the antibodies in her body. And the activated Variant Virus absorbs it, stabilizing with the antibodies in her body. It's an effective restoration.

They heard from Vitaly that they could help the Variant Virus adapt to the body of Nakri.

– Nakri, do your best. Because we will aid you.

– ...'we' you say, I have to do it too?

– If it's done by me alone, then perhaps she won't make it. So, help me.

– Eh, umm, well...

– Then next is Krovanh's turn.

Nesat wipes the saliva attached to her mouth with a finger.

Krovanh's heart was going *DOKI DOKI* while staring motionlessly at the lips of Nakri that were shining and getting wet by the saliva of Nesat and hers.

(...there's nothing else that can be done...)

It's impossible to put a burden on Nesat alone, then Krovanh summons courage and kisses Nakri.

– *mwha, suck, nnh, suck...*

They kissed for around 10 seconds.

Sucking out the saliva of Nakri, he pours his own.

– ...then, how is it?

Separating his lips, Krovanh confirms the state of Nakri.

But still, Nakri was continuously breathing with difficulty.

– I'll do it one more time.

Saying that, Nesat kissed her one more time.

After her, Krovanh decided to do it again.

And in the middle of that.

– Kro, vanh...?

Nakri opened her eyes.

She's different from a moment ago. Her eyes are black.

Krovanh, flustered, explains the circumstances.

– Eh, a, well, that, that tis, there are a lot of reasons for that. I mean, Neechan also did it!

– ...? What...?

Apparently Nakri doesn't seem to be aware that she was kissed by Nesat and Krovanh. Nesat joins the conversation from the side.

– Never mind that, just stay still. We are on your side. Just a little more. By persevering, you'll overcome it.

– Yup....

Answering, Nakri close her eyelids.

– Nesat, Krovanh, thanks.

– There's no need to say that.

As Krovanh scratches his nose feeling embarrassed, he continued his words.

– We three are one. We will stay by your side the whole time till you get better.

———Sharing the suffering of one person to the other two.

———That's how we live.

Krovanh muttered so in his mind.

And——

– H, huh...?

Nakri raised her body from the bed and muttered while making eyes blink

rapidly.

On the first day when the Variant Virus was injected, it was Nakri who was revolving around in pain, but since the second day, her condition was stable.

However, she was unconscious, because of that she slept all day...

They were questioning if, at this rate, she will never wake up again, so the morning of the third day they have become anxious.

At last, Nakri woke up.

– I'm glad, I'm really glad, Nakri!

– Wai-, Krovanh! Suddenly do— —

Nakri was suddenly embraced by Krovanh, she was puzzled and her face was bright red. From the other side, Nesat was also embracing her.

– Nakri...I'm really happy. I'm really...

– U, umm...

Both Krovanh and Nesat have tears in their eyes.

So Nakri remembered the situation where she was placed.

– Oh right, I...

– Yeah, I've become a Variant.

– From now on, we can be together.

A short time after that— —

The trio of Krovanh, Nakri and Nesat encountered Hayato and Little Garden's Slayers at the Zwei Island under Vitaly's orders.

In that opportunity they were able to escape stealing the core of a Savage, but in <<Operation: Bird in Cage>> that happened a few months later, they were arrested in Little Garden. And the terrorist plan of Little Garden broke out by Vitaly.

The trio learned that they lost their employer and knew that they were just being used for her own sake, then they were given the last name of Olfred and became members of Little Garden, and despite surveillance, they were given

freedom. At that time, words from Claire were told to the three of them.

– Atone for everything up to now, do it by using the power you have, not just for yourself, use it by making this world better. That is what Noblesse Oblige means desuwa.

Those words were engraved deep inside Krovanh.

Thus, the trio are in a soft and fluffy futon, living a life where they can sleep happily, guaranteed by Little Garden.

They also have the ability to fight.

That's why, for those who are in a similar position like Hasan, they must work hard to create a world where freedom and happiness of the same kind can be obtained.

They wonder when it will be like that.

– Let's definitely win tomorrow.

Naturally, words of resolve are spilt from the mouth of Krovanh.

– ...yup.

Nesat nodded.

Then Nakri replied.

– Of course.

And, in the third round—

The morning of the fight against Al Salaam has come.

Chapter 3: Anxious morning *Settlement and future* The power of the Holy Church

There's a match in the morning, but there's no need for him to fight.

Because of that, he decided to go to bed earlier than usual. And the moment he opened his eyes, it was quite early in the morning, more than usual.

He has the option of going to sleep for a second time, but that would be a momentary thing.

The cafeteria will be open in less than an hour.

(Until then, I should go running)

Hayato decided, and left the room.

The weather is cloudy.

It's still gloomy, the feeling of the rays of the sun are almost nonexistent.

The atmospheric temperature it's a bit chilly, if you wear a thin shirt and short pants.

Hayato is running lightly around the hotel.

Eventually, he saw a small shadow in front of his eyes.

(Is that the same as me, a Slayer?)

Like Hayato, it seems to be running.

(...hmm...)

Hayato stopped his feet at the same time he knew who she was.

The owner of the feet also stops, staring in wonder.

– ...Hayato...?

– Good morning, Nesat.

– Good morning.

Nesat also returned the greetings.

– By any chance, you couldn't sleep?

– I did sleep, But, I got up early—

Casting down her eyes, Nesat replied somewhat shy.

– I see, that's the same for me.

– ...the same?

– I was nervous at the time I had to participate in the first round, so I didn't sleep that much. That's not the case though for today though.

Hayato scratches his head, feeling embarrassed.

– ...nervous...

– Oh, perhaps you aren't?

– I don't know it well.... I got up early. I thought about going to bed again, but I couldn't get to sleep..... If I stayed like that, I would feel somewhat anxious... If we lose, we won't be able to give our gratitude to everyone.

– ...gratitude?

– Yup, gratitude. Our gratitude towards Little Garden for letting us live. Yesterday evening, we three were talking. If winning would be the best way to give our thanks.

– ...I see. But it's better to not think too much about it. If you get nervous, then your body may not work properly. Because Nesat is the elder sister, I wonder if there are aspects of yours were you could get worked up.

– Elder sister...

– Isn't it?

– Yup...

Nesat is silent, her figure just nodded.

She is like that for a couple of seconds.

Eventually, she raised her face—

– Say, Hayato.

– Yes?

– I want you, to hug me.

– Huh?

Nesat's cheeks are deep red, as she stretches her arms in front of his eyes.

– Eh, umm.... Why, so suddenly...

Hayato was perplexed by the sudden action.

– Before, I calmed down because I was tightly embraced by Hayato.

Therefore, I want you to do it——

Perhaps it was during the terrorist incident that Vitaly caused in Little Garden. Then what Nesat is saying is that she went frenzy at that time.

– It's no good?

Being sorrowful, she narrowed her eyes.

– Well, that's...

If she calms down with that, then maybe he has to do it.

It's definitely better than fighting in a state of nervousness.

– I understand. Just a little bit.

– ...okay.

Hayato gently wrapped up the body of Nesat who is smiling happily with both arms.

Then Nesat turned her arms under the arms of Hayato and embraced him.

The cool air went unnoticed, they didn't feel it.

What they feel is, the heat of each other's body and the beatings of their hearts——

And, a sweet smell...

(I told her that it was for a brief moment, so what are you doing!)

He noticed that they were in this position for more than 10 seconds.

Hayato separated from Nesat in an instant.

– Did you, calm down?

– My heart skipped a beat.

– ...eh?

– But, the anxiety disappeared. Thank you, Hayato. I'm going to do my best effort.

After expressing a smile on her whole face, Nesat started running again.

(Then, I'll run too)

Hayato tries to run again.

But he couldn't do that.

– Ha-ya-to.

– Huh? Emilia?

Emilia Hermit approached rapidly with a frightening menacing look.

– Emilia, what are you doing here?

– What, I can't be here now!!?

Emilia shouted Hayato who asked without thinking, with tears showing on her face.

– When I woke up in the morning and opened the curtains, I saw Hayato's figure. And then, Hayato was flirting with Nesat! I deployed my armament at once and jumped out of the window!

– No no no...

She jumped down, she says.

As expected, she was overdoing it a bit.

– ...so, what did you do with Nesat? What kind of relationship do you have? It looked like you were hugging, and kissing!

She folded her arms, turned her face away with a *humph*.

– No, look, about that. I was taking out a rubbish from her eyes...

– That’s a lie! You both had your hands around your bodies!

– We were wrestling.

– That’s also a lie! Please tell me the truth!

– Well, I did it in order to calm down Nesat, so.

– ...to calm her down?

Doubting, Emilia narrowed her eyes.

– Nesat is supposed to participate today, isn’t it? Because of that she couldn’t be calm down. I was the same before the first match, you know.

– Then you had to embrace her closely?

– It couldn’t be helped, I couldn’t do anything else. Besides, it wasn’t nothing like that.

– It was that kind of thing!

– Well, that’s... I’m saying that we are not a couple of anything of the sort!

– That was obvious! I understand that. Then, hug me too! Do it!

– Hey, what are you saying!?

– I’m stressed! I can’t be calm at all! I’m getting really nervous right now! So hug me! Come on, hug me, Hayato!

– Okay you win, I got it!

Hayato hugs Emilia.

For a little more than 10 seconds.

They were in that posture without moving.

– Are you fine now?

– Yup.

It looks like she finally regained her mood.

Emilia nodded with a full smile.

The time jumps 30 minutes before the start of the match.

Hayato and the Slayers of Little Garden, and their rivals, the Slayers of Al Salaam, have changed their clothes into their Variable Suits, and were entering the waiting space of the battlefield wing.

– Say, President. Would you let me draw the lots?

Krovahn speaks to Claire who's about to draw lots to determine the match format.

Facing that, Erika revealed her anger.

– What are you talking about? The captain of the team is the one who draws the lots. Why would you—

– I don't see the problem wayo.

– ——Claire-sama!?

– There are teams that players who are not captains draw, in this case it won't be a problem, correct? Please go ahead.

– I'm indebted to you, President-san.

Saying his words of gratitude, Krovanh went to the center of the battlefield.

The one waiting there is Melec, the captain of Al Salaam team.

He was surprised when he saw Krovanh, and asked him.

– You are the one drawing lots?

– Today, I'm going to do so.

After shaking hands with Melec, Krovahn pushed the button of the lottery device received from the officer in charge. Next, Melec pushed the button.

The match format was decided as <<3 vs 3>>.

Then, the moment when it was displayed on the huge *vision*.

– Nice!

Nakri said, clenching one of her fists and grasping it in one go.

– ...yeah.

Nesat nodded happily.

– Somehow or other, everything ended as you have intended desuwane.

Claire gently smiled at Krovahn who came back to the waiting space.

Smiling happily with a grin, Krovahn answers.

– I'd like to thank God, as this is perfect for how we do our things.

The three of them can fight together.

Those three are Krovahn, Nakri and Nesat, and they were overflowing with happiness.

– Then, I only have one thing to say desuwa.

Claire said, smiling with tenderness.

– Win. Understood desuwane?

– Absolutely.

Krovahn answered firmly.

Al Salaam's participating members are Melec, who is the captain of Al Salaam team and uses a Martial Arts type Hundred; Bekher, who punched Krovahn, has a Chevalier type.

The last one is Amir, a woman who uses a Shooter type Hundred.

It can be said that they have a good formation as it is well-balanced between proximity and long distance.

As opposed to Krovahn, whose Twin Sword is a Crusher type—*Orthos Liberio*. Nakri, whose circular rings are Dancer type—*Dio Varga*. And matching with the composition of the opponent, Nesat used the <<Eye of Reality>> *Truth Eye* to create a Dragoon type armament.

She traced Claire's armament, it was memorized beforehand.

However, the color of the floating batteries of <<Noble Warrior Princess>> that appeared around the body of Nesat aren't red nor green, but are the same color of her energy, that is, black and yellow, the color of her Variable Suit. Speaking of composition, and like the team of Al Salaam, they are well

balanced.

[And now, Little Garden team and Al Salaam team——the curtain of the clash between these fellow organizations whose parent organizations are private military companies will rise!]

The match that started with Carol's announcement went on with Little Garden team's advantage from beginning to end.

Although Al Salaam team also launched combined attacks, against the trio of Nakri, Nesat and Krovahn, honestly, they weren't a suitable rival.

– Now, Krovahn!

– Roger!

With Nesat's floating batteries and Nakri's *Dio Varga* being thrown to make a gap, Krovahn assaulted with *Orthos Liberio*. It was a powerful attack enough to destroy the E *barrier* deployed for defense.

Melec, who was hit hard fell to the battlefield. Of course, his armament was cancelled.

– Next is Nee-chan's version!

– ...yup.

Nesat made disappear the floating batteries and traced Krovahn's *Orthos Liberio* with *Truth Eye*. She created a Twin Sword and decided to aim at Amir who's holding a Shooter type Hundred. She desperately fired beams, but Nesat ripped them with the Twin Sword and approached her.

She cut the body from above the E barrier. Amir also fell to the ground as Melec, now only one person remains——

It's Bekher, who hit Krovahn.

– The last one is mine——

– Nakri, wait a bit.

It's Krovahn who stopped Nakri that was about to rush out for Bekher.

– What is it, Krovahn? Don't tell me that you think that I'll be defeated?

– I’m sorry, but let me do it. I’ll hand him over if we encounter him next time. I want to have a one-on-one with him. So, sisters, please don’t interfere.

With that said, Krovahn walked towards Bekher.

– You said a one-on-one right now, huh. Is that really okay?

Bekher asked.

– I feel that the punch of a while ago was too strong. So I’ll return the favor. Let’s have a good match, okay?

Preparing his Twin Sword, Krovahn said.

-In that case, I’ll take advantage of those words!

Bekher slashed, holding his sword.

Krovahn stopped it with his Twin Sword, rejecting it.

– ...hmm, is that all you’ve got?

– I’m not done yet!

Again, Bekher slashed at Krovahn, but the result is the same.

Moreover, he got repelled by Krovahn.

– You said that you could beat me, huh? How can you do that, since you can’t even win against the disciple of Kisaragi Hayato?

– Kuuh!

The third attack of Bekher was also repelled, and so he crumbled down to the battlefield.

– What’s wrong, it’s this the end already?

Krovahn said, while approaching the fallen Bekher. His attitude is like he was making fun of him.

– Not yet!

Screaming, Bekher stood up.

– I haven’t given up yet! Uooooooooo——!

With the sword filled with *energy*, he slashed at Krovahn.

– ...wasn't it nice? That force. The best energy that I felt up to now. I don't dislike it. Therefore, I'll do it seriously.

Krovahn injected energy into *Orthos Liberio* and swung it to the approaching Bekher.

With the *energy* blades created by the weapon, Bekher's body didn't get closer to Krovahn, he was sent flying outside of the battlefield instead.

Colliding with a wall, the body of Bekher collapses.

At the same time, his armament has also been cancelled.

[KO! Following the participants Melec and Amir, the participant Bekher is also KO! Therefore, the victory of the first match of the quarterfinals goes to Little Garden!]

Following Carol's announcement, the sound of the buzzer rings to inform the end of the match.

– Hey, you alright?

Krovahn went down from the battlefield and approached Bekher.

– Ye, yeah...

While his face was distorted with pain, Bekher stood up and said.

– ...it's a complete defeat. I can't say anything else beyond that. And here I thought that I have taken quite a lot of training but, haven't you become stronger than that time?

– At that time you say, you mean that time at Mt. Kongur? I'm glad you said so. After that, we got weaker.

– What does that mean?

Krovahn told Bekher that he had taken a treatment to suppress the reckless behavior of the artificial Variant at Little Garden.

– Is that so...? Then, in other words, that means that we weren't defeated against you as artificial Variants, but as Slayers.

He didn't feel bad at all.

On the contrary, he was smiling.

– That is to say, if we also work hard, then it's probable that we might get to be strong like you too. You've encouraged me to keep training, more than ever.

– We'll train too so that we won't be defeated... isn't that right?

– Yeah, of course!

Following Nakri who answered, Nesat said.

– For the people who live in this world, for the peace— —

– I see...

– Hey. Bekher.

It was the Captain of Al Salaam, Melec, who came between Krovahn and Bekher. He was down, but he regained himself and got up. That's the same for Amir.

– Have you told him about that?

Melec asks Bekher.

Because of that Bekher became surprised.

– You are right. I forgot about it.

In answer, looking towards Krovahn, Melec said.

– If you don't mind, would you like to see Zia? He was saying that he wanted to see you, if you could meet him after the match.

It's after changing from their Variable Suits to their uniforms that Krovahn, Nesat and Nakri decided to visit Al Salaam's waiting room to see Zia. Apart from them, Claire, Erika and Liddy attended as watchers, totaling six people.

Sitting on the sofa together, and waiting for that moment, the door opened. What came in the room is a wheelchair boy. His age is around 15.

– Are you Zia?

– ...nice to meet you, Krovahn. Well, it's weird to say nice to meet you. Because at that time, we were fighting. Do you remember me?

– No, I'm sorry but I don't.

– Is that so?

Zia narrowed his eyes being a little sad, and continued.

– At that time I thought that I was doing it splendidly, but for you to not remember me, then it means that it was just up to that level. I feel so ashamed.

Ahaha, he was laughing, mocking himself.

– But—no, for this reason, I thought about rehabilitating myself fast, and then to get stronger. Someday we will fight in a proper match, I'll win, and you'll remember my existence.

– Hahah, what a high-spirited fellow. But, I don't dislike you. I'm looking forward to that day.

Zia and Krovahn shook hands. Following that, Al Salaam's Captain Melec said.

– I'm sorry for bringing this, but I had to look into your past a little. Honestly, we had plenty of bad things in Al Salaam those days. The Kingdom Government of Khmer started to use the power of the Slayers and cooperated with those who wanted to rule people. Because of that, you guys, who at that time were just children, went through terrible things.

– Exactly.

– But, the world is changing, little by little.

Asserting that, Melec continued.

– Now we are under the leadership of the United Nations to investigate those who did oppression by using the power of the Slayers and to guide and punish to those who did violations.

– Is that true?

– It's true.

– Besides, there's an initiative to use some of the funds we earn for the protection of children and their education, as well as the stability of Al Salaam's controlled area, including the Kingdom of Kmher. I'll work alone as a Slayer of Al Salaam with all that I have to make it true. That's the atonement from me to you.

– Is that, is that all true?

– Yeah, it's true

To Krovahn, who asked in an attitude that he couldn't give credibility to what they said, Melec responded to him with a sincere attitude.

– If that's the case, then it's a promise.

– Yeah.

Melec grasped tightly the hand presented by Krovahn.

Looking at the figure of the two who shook hands, Nakri and Nesat smiled while looking at each other's face, they shared their happiness.

– With this, we got closer to the world where everyone can be happy.

– Indeed. I'm truly happy.

– Okay then, if you excuse us masuwa.

After expressing their greetings, the members of Little Garden went out of the room.

– Please do your best in the remaining games.

The words of Zia were received from the back. Although he never looked back, Krovahn raised his hand and answered.

– We will do our part to advance and win the championship. So, even though you lost to us, don't be ashamed, okay?

– What would you guys do from now on masuwa?

– I'm tired, so I'm going back to the hotel, what are you going to do, sisters?

– I intended to do the same. And Nesat?

– Eh, well...

After hesitating for a little, Nesat replied.

– I'm fine with it.

– What's wrong, Nee-chan is a little weird.

- There's not such a thing.
- Then I will arrange some cars masuwa. We are going to return at once as well desu. Let's go together.

The trio of Krovanh and the trio of Claire got into different cars and came back to the hotel.

– Not only the victory, but also the ill will with Al Salaam was also cleared, the results can't be better mashitawa.

It was around a while since the car started running.

Erika at the front passenger seat turned and looked back to Claire at the back seat.

– I completely agree with you.

Following Claire who nodded, Liddy said.

– If this tournament leads to stability in the Middle East region—then eventually will lead to the stability in the world.

Erika is taken aback with those words.

– Perhaps is just what Judal-sama says, that this tournament will unify the world, don't you agree?

– ...if that happens, then it's fine desuwane...

– But, are we sure enough than that thing is true?

After all it's his older brother, and that can only be part of a big plan. Unless, there's another plan.

Claire thought that.

(But, it won't do any good to suspect too much masenwane)

So, Claire stopped thinking.

The tournament has not ended yet.

Now the most important thing is to prepare for the next match.

– Oh, if it isn't Emilia-sama?

Time goes back a little, after Al Salaam's match.

Hayato, Emilia, Latia and Fritz had lunch at a dining room dedicated to the contestants.

A woman comes near there.

A member of team Britannia— —Claudia Lowetti.

Behind her, there are members they knew.

– Emilia-sama. And to everyone, congratulations for advancing to the semifinals.

– Thank you. Your match comes after this, right? All of us will be rooting for you, so do your best.

– Thank you very much, Emilia-sama!

Following Claudia's words, the other members also bowed their head and said [Thank you very much]

– Oh right, please listen to this, Emilia-sama! Douglas-sama is supposed to be included on the bench of the match today!

– Huh...?

– Is that true?

Emilia was quite surprised, she was staring in wonder to that.

Following Latia who raised her voice, of course Hayato and Fritz are the same.

– It's true, the injury has not yet healed completely, but the doctor in charge has given out his approval. The feeling of wanting to fight might have accelerated the recovery of Douglas-sama's injury.

– I see...

That was really good, Hayato thinks.

– I'll tell Karen later about this. She's still depressed because she thinks that it was her fault.

– I understand, then please do so. However, as for me, I do not want to go out

to the match yet. For the sake of that, we have to persevere.

Suddenly, Latia clenched one of her fists in front of her chest.

– I think that the opponent is strong, but you can do it.

– Yes, we are going to do our best efforts. And like Emilia-sama and everyone else, we are going to advance to the semifinals!

Two hours after Claudia proclaimed that with energy.

The expressions of Hayato and his friends, who were watching the match at the stadium watching space, were all grim.

The match form between the team Puritaria and team Federation Britannia is <<Points Taker Competition>> 5 vs 5.

The first and second competitors, the Slayers of Federation of Britannia team have been defeated by the Slayers of Puritaria in less than 3 minutes.

– The hell is that weapon.... And, that power...

Immediately after the buzzer indicating the end of the match of the second competitor reverberated.

Latia murmured, pulling a wry face with her eyebrows.

– No matter how you look it, that's a[harp], right?

As Emilia says, the armament of Johanna, the second competitor of Puritaria team, is a [harp].

It's a Musical type Hundred, the name of it is <<Angel's Harp>> *Johaness Harp*.

When she played it, a magical phenomenon occurred. It influenced the mind of its opponents to make them immovable, and produced light blades and rocks.

By the way, Matthew's Hundred that appeared in the first battle was not as good as the one of Johanna's, but it was mysterious.

Its pattern was like a standard Battle Shooter type, but the weapon was somewhat peculiar.

The cross that he always carried on his back——

Its name is <<Cross of Atonement>> *Sacrifice*.

It made him powerful enough to beat up his opponents, or fought them by changing it to a gun to fire *energy* shots.

Of course not only their Hundred are special, the response numeric value of the two people as well as their physical ability are quite high.

Nobody can win against this kind of opponents.

Claudia said, encouraging Britannia's Slayers that were wandering with such a desperate mood.

— Everyone, please calm down. I will go next. I will absolutely win and keep us back in the game. We are Emilia-sama's team—— we won't lose until we fight Little Garden team.

— ...sorry, Claudia. Let me go here.

It was Douglas Edward Wenz, the representative of Britannia team, who touched from the back the shoulder of Claudia who told that enthusiastic speech.

— ...Douglas-sama...

Claudia soon understood the meaning of the words of Douglas.

Perhaps this third match that will take place may be the last battle of the Federation of Britannia team.

That's why he wants to fight as the captain.

— I understand.

It's a fight that they must absolutely win.

He told them earlier, even if he can go out, he doesn't know if he can win.

Puritania team hasn't lost a single one so far.

That's why Claudia obediently withdrawn and decided to leave it to Douglas.

Thus, the third participant of the team of the Federation of Britannia was decided to be Douglas.

Maruko was decided as the third one on the side of Puritaria.

– I am Douglas Edward Wenz, the representative of Federation of Britannia team. In our current situation, we have two consecutive defeats. I will rely on all my strength, just like a challenger would do. Let's do our best—

Douglas who came first to the battlefield reached for Maruko who is coming closer.

But Maruko didn't submit her hand, nor said anything. She is just staring at the hand that Douglas was holding out.

On the contrary, she didn't even shout *Hundred On* to create her sickle, the weapon, on her right hand.

She didn't want to shake hands, nor to talk. She just wants to do the match fast.

That said, the way Maruko is holding the sickle, makes her look like the god of death.

– That girl is creepy, don't you think?

Claudia spat out.

But, Douglas wasn't agitated.

– Is that you want to fight more than anything else? Understood.

Douglas shouted, crossing his arms in front of his chest.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

His rings on both hands shed light, producing <<Deep Crimson Glory>> *Red Gloria* on his right hand and <<Absolute Disaster>> *Death Star* on his left hand.

<<Double Deployment>> *Dual Act*, It's the proof that he will go with all that he has from the beginning.

Preparing both of his swords, he continued speaking.

– Let's have a good match.

In regards of that, Maruko didn't answer.

While holding her sickle, she didn't move at all.

[Th-, then, let the match between Douglas Edward Wenz of Federation of Britannia team and Maruko of Puritaria team begin!]

Following Carol's announcement, the buzzer of the beginning of the match resounded in the stadium.

It was Maruko who initiated the attack first.

Unlike Matthew and Johanna, it's an extremely ordinary weapon.

To the point that it's impossible to read her attacks.

But Douglas continued to be unilaterally attacked, like the Slayers of Britannia Federation team who fought in the first and second fight.

– It's impossible, Douglas condition isn't like always.

That's what Emilia said.

– I think the same.

Hayato agreed immediately.

As he have fought against Douglas, he found that Emilia's opinion was correct.

His movements are slow. Resulting the attacks of Douglas to never hit Maruko.

– ...Kuh!

Maruko thrust the sickle that she brandished to the gap of Douglas, and the latter, in response with his two swords—tried to block it with *Red Gloria* and *Death Star*.

However, under the pressure of the momentum, the two swords were beaten as if they were written like a */* character.

(Da—)

Towards the chest that has become defenseless, Maruko cut it with the *energy* blade.

– Kuhah!

He couldn't defend against it with an *E barrier*.

Douglas was pushed by its power, he was sent flying to the outside of the

battlefield, and collided with the wall.

– Douglas-san!

Next to Hayato, Karen gave a sorrowful voice,

– ...Douglas...

Emilia sitting on the other side was looking Douglas with worried eyes.

His body is already worn-out.

However, he doesn't want this to end, he tried to get up.

But——

– No way, the wound is open!

Emilia shouted.

In fact, the abdomen of Douglas is dyed red.

Douglas collapsed while holding down that place with his hand.

(For Emilia-sama and everyone who have to fight them afterwards, if only I had lasted a little longer...)

Douglas muttered in his mind while smiling as if he was mocking himself.

He can't fight anymore.

Douglas stood on the side and raised both of his hands to Maruko who is looking down on him.

– ... if it wasn't because of this injury... I can't make an excuse like that... it's my loss.

The buzzer rings, and Maruko's victory is announced.

– In the end, he lost.

– Yeah...

Emilia nodded to Hayato's mumbling.

Hayato stroke the head of Karen who's about to start crying and said to her.

– Karen, it's not your fault, okay?

– ... but...

The large *vision* of the stadium showed the appearance of Claudia shedding tears and the Slayers of Britannia team.

Watching such appearances, they couldn't have stopped it even if they wanted to.

– I'm going there for a bit.

Emilia stood up and ran towards the spot of Claudia and the others who are retiring from the battlefield.

To honor the strenuous efforts of Britannia team.

To encourage Claudia and the others.

(I guess she really does things that are befitting of an Ohime-sama)

And while Hayato was thinking that,

– Look, Hayato!

Latia shouted.

Her gaze is directed to the large *vision*.

It seems that their next opponent's lottery is starting.

– Come to think of it, will the matching of the tournament change from the semifinals?

Who could be their next opponent?

Hayato pays attention to the *vision*.

– Ah...!

The moment the opponent is decided.

Hayato's eyes were widely opened.

– So, at last that time has come.

– It seems so.

Hayato nodded at Fritz who called him out.

The next opponent of Little Garden.

It was Rasiya Team, the destined opponent of Hayato.

*TN: Some of the followers of Serivia have *male-like names*, but it's assumed that all are females, there's no indication of it at least for Matthew. The rest are indeed females, an example is Maruko, her translated name was Marco/Mark, but she's a woman so... having one of those names was indeed weird and just went as its written, that is Maruko.

Chapter 4: Destined opponent *Vengeance*

Assassin

An hour before the start of the match with Rasiya Team.

Hayato entered the stadium which is the venue of the World Martial Arts Tournament, and changed clothes to his Variable Suit, as it was expected to do from this point.

Then, his Hundred received some adjustments from Charlotte, and moved to the waiting space on the wing of the battlefield 30 minutes before the start of the match.

But, Hayato had a place to go before coming there.

That place is the sickroom of Kenzaki Touka, which is located in the medical treatment space inside the *stadium*.

TAP TAP and then a *KNOCK*, he put a hand on the door of the sickroom.

– I’m coming in.

Suddenly, the door was opened making a sound.

– Shi, Shinshishō...?

– ... eh?

What the eyes of Hayato met was the figure of Touka that wasn’t wearing anything, with the exception of a thin strawberry pattern underwear.



She was applying a towel wet with warmth water on her arms.

It seems like she was wiping the perspiration given off during sleep.

– Ah! Umm... my bad. I'm going to wait outside!

Although her body is a very young one, she's still a woman.

His heart beats fast with the bottom on her chest, the swelling that looks soft*.

***TN: Kanji for bottom on her chest was 胸元にお尻. Oshiri (is buttocks or bottom, but it's obvious that her buttocks can't be on her chest, so I used bottom, I know it sounds weird but that's how appears in the raw.**

– Please wait!

Touka called out Hayato who was rushing to leave the room.

– There's no need to go outside. As long as you stay facing backwards, then I can change clothes before that.

– Is, is that so...?

Hayato turns backwards as he was told.

(Certainly, she was in the middle of wiping her body, huh...)

When he was visiting Karen's hospital room every day once he came to Little Garden, similar things happened often.

– Nii-san, are you doing this on purpose?

Karen told him things like that, so when he visited the hospital room he was careful, but this time he was careless.

(...still, I don't have an excuse)

But, at the time when he was living in the institution, it was something natural.

Probably because the ones surrounding him were only children.

Because of that, he forgot to confirm it now.

– You can turn around.

– Okay.

When he turned around, Touka was properly wearing a hospital gown.

– Then, what do you need? Now comes... the match against Rasiya, right?

– That's why I came here. I thought of telling you something that will motivate you.

– To tell me something?

– Yeah——

Hayato nodded, and put a hand on Touka's head.

– Ah...!

That little girl, her face is colored in bright red.

But Hayato didn't noticed it, and continued speaking.

– Arranged by the President, I'll be able to fight that guy——Gert.

– Shinshishō. That's my——

– If it's revenge what you want to say, that might be unsettling. At that time, why didn't I stop my caustic words?

Scratching his head feeling embarrassed, Hayato continued.

– But, I'm definitely going to win. For you, and for Little Garden. At that time, you told me exactly that. So, give me your support.

– Hey, Shinshishō.

– What?

– I know this is not the best time to say it but, I truly thank you for that time. I was happy that you came to help me.

– Don't make me feel embarrassed saying something like that so formal...

– it's the same for me...

Silence passed between them.

– But, Shinshishō. Please be careful. That Gert is abnormal.

– I know that. Well then, I have to go.

– Yes! Go for it, Shinshishō! I'm very happy that Shinshishō is, is my Shishō!

[Now we are finally half through of the tournament. The first match of today is between Little Garden team vs Rasiya team, the fated showdown of the two teams!]

What is displayed in the large-sized *vision* of the *stadium* is the state of the battle between Gert and Touka in single matches.

Fritz, who was watching that situation in the waiting space of the wing, told in disgust.

- Don't show something like that. It isn't pleasant at all to watch that.
- The easy-to-understand revenge tragedy, that is something the media likes, by the way.

Being the same of disgusted when saying that, Claire went out to the battlefield.

It's to decide the format of the match, drawing lots.

- It's been a while, Queen of Little Garden.
- Likewise.

Cezary and Claire.

Without shaking hands, the conversation they had was no more than that.

Claire is the first to receive the device, and pushed the button.

A vertical row lights up,

Cezary chose the button[③].

The square on vertical number one, horizontal number three shines.

Thus, the match format was decided.

Claire returned to the waiting space, and called out her teammates.

– As you can see, the match format is <<Knockout Competition>>. As I conveyed to you at the strategy meeting yesterday, Liddy will be the first participant masuwayo.

- Yes.

Looking to Claire, Liddy replies firmly.

– According to the strategy, you will deal with the first and second participants perfectly.

According to the analysis of <<LiZA>>, among the Slayers of Rasiya team, three of them have a considerable ability—those are Gert, Elena and Cezary, the rest of them aren't even considered an opponent.

Liddy defeated with full confidence the first and second participants of Rasiya Team.

The moment she surpassed those two, both her *vital* and *energy* are barely consumed.

But—.

– Liddy, you have done wonderful so far desuwa.

Claire told that to Liddy who came back to the waiting space from the battlefield after finishing the second battle.

That's because of the nomination of Elena as the third participant of Rasiya team.

– ...understood.

Liddy obediently withdraws. But to tell the truth, she just wants to fight like she did in the second battle.

Moreover, it's said that there's a possibility that Elena is an artificial Variant.

In the past, I may have lost against Krovanh and the others, but now that I have further devoted myself to train as a Slayer, then I may be able to win against an artificial Variant.

Liddy had such thought.

That's why Liddy was supplicating Claire to fight Elena if she came out during the strategy meeting yesterday, if she had no problems with her *vital* and *energy*.

However, Claire didn't allow it.

– We do not know what will be the format of the match until right before

that, so we can't limit ourselves that problems and accidents won't occur until then. Although we have time until the finals, I want you to save your ability desu. <<LiZA>> also recommends it masu.

Continuing, Mei Mei, who remained on the side of Little Garden said.

[By the way, if Elena-san and Liddy-san had to fight, the chances for Liddy-san to win are around 43%. In case she does win, the likelihood that Liddy-san won't be in the finals is nearly 100%——that's what <<LiZA>> calculated]

In other words, even if she wins, there's a high possibility that she will be severely injured so that she won't participate in the next round.

It's team battles. Still, considering the position of the vice president, and the victory of the team— they should go for the championship.

That was the decision, so Liddy accepted Claire's proposition.

– Alright, it's my turn.

After Emilia drank a bottle of <<Energy Drink>> *energy bull*, she walked towards the battlefield.

– Hayato, cheer for me.

– Yeah, of course.

Nonetheless, if it's Emilia, then there's nothing to worry about. Even though there's the possibility for the opponent to be an artificial Variant, <<LiZA>> predicted that the probability for Emilia to win is over 70%.

Emilia goes towards the center of the battlefield.

Elena was waiting there, and called out Emilia.

– You are my opponent, huh.

– Yup, let's have a good match.

With a smile on her face, Emilia grasps tightly her Hundred.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

Emilia is the first to deploy the Hundred—

Arms Shroud, the Innocence type Hundred appears, surrounding her body.

– I heard that your armament is a variable type.

– So you knew it— it was obvious. It's something basic to investigate the team of your opponent.

Slipping out a smile, Emilia transformed the floating batteries into a spear.

– Hmm, this will do it.

– Then, it's my turn now.

With that said, Elena deploys her Hundred.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

– Wow, it's amazing.

Emilia spilt those words spontaneously, looking at Elena which appeared from the blue light emitted from the Hundred.

That's because Elena was on a horse.

– It's correct to say that yours it's a Rider type? I feel that I've heard that it's like a combination of a Phalanx type and a Tamer type.

– It is, exactly that. Its name is <<Ice Silver Fighting Horse>> *Red Chariot*.

– Both of us have special armaments, the people in the audience are sure having a great time, isn't it?

– Hmph, how complacent.

Looking at the smiling face of Emilia, Elena laughed scornfully.

– If you are nervous, then you won't be able to show your real ability, right? Well then, let's begin—

– Let's do it.

While the countdown begins, they both prepare themselves and glared at each other.

[Now, with the recent entrance of Emilia Hermit of Little Garden team, and the entrance of the most recent team member of Rasiya team, Elena Eskalnikova, let the match begin! By the way, the participant Emilia is a member of the elite force "*Selections*" of Little Garden. And there is also a rumor related

to participant Elena, who is part of the elite force of Rasiya Empire, in which she is a member of the <Secret Police> *Oprichinik*. The fellow secret weapons of both teams are facing each other. What kind of battle will it be?]

Following Carol's announcement, the buzzer indicating the beginning of the game rang.

Along with that, Elena charges.

– Ypaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!* (URAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!)

***TN: It's written in cyrillic.**

She kicked the abdomen of the horse with the stirrup, and began to run vigorously.

Then, she started attacking Emilia with the spear.

Emilia, who leapt high with a jump using *energy* to dodge it, transformed her *Arms Shroud* into two floating batteries and released beams from mid-air towards the horse that she was riding.

Not only Elena jumped high using the four legs in order to dodge them, but also she set an attack while falling.

After jumping backwards, Emilia made use of *Arms Shroud* to increase the floating batteries to eight, multiplying them by 4—deploying them around Elena.

– You're a big target! If two didn't do it, then with this much I'll hit you for sure!

It's as Emilia says.

As expected, it's impossible for Elena to dodge the beams of all eight floating batteries.

But—.

– With beams and the like of that degree!

Elena deploys a wide area barrier, making an E *barrier* around her body.

The beams banished, and set off an offensive on Emilia.

– Okay then, how about this?

Emilia evaded the spear of Elena, then rapidly took distance and reduced all the floating batteries to particles.

Using *Arms Shroud*, she created 5 spears, and started to launch one, then another one, aiming at Elena.

– It's not a simultaneous attack, so this will do!

According to those words, Elena manipulates the horse and continues to dodge the spears.

But, Emilia isn't releasing just normal ones.

– The last one will be a big one!



— Wha — —

She thought that she ended dodging them all, but when she saw the sixth spear, Elena was left in surprise.

Rather than a spear, it was like a huge club used to hit the bell of the temples in Yamato. It's too big to be able to dodge it.

— — —guh!

Elena received a direct hit, she was thrown down from the horse, her body hit hard the battlefield. At the same time, the horse vanished in particles.

[Ooooooh my, participant Elena! She is down! She is down! The horse, which was her mount, has ended up vanishing! Will she be able to stand up!? By the way, the name of her horse seems to be 『Crow Cassis*』and it means white snow! That's the information that we have!]

***TN:** クロウカシス = **kuroukashisu**

While Carol mixed her explanations, the countdown started.

10, 9, 8, 7, 6— —

— Guh...!

The countdown was exactly at 5 when Elena stood up, though she was staggering, and looked at Cezary in the waiting space, to appeal for something to him.

Cezary nods, in order to give his approval to that appeal.

Thereupon, Elena loosened her mouth and smiled with a puff, and turned a sharp look at Emilia.

— From here on, I'll go all out.

— ...all out?

She had a bad presentiment.

She felt that the nature of the *energy* covering her body changed.

— That's right, the real match starts from here.

That premonition wasn't a mistake.

Both Elena's eyes emit a golden color.

Then her body is wrapped in particles of golden *energy*.

(That means, that a few moments ago she got the permission to use the ability of the Variant...)

The brightness and the particles of the *energy* disappeared, and when she saw Elena who appeared from that, Emilia muttered in surprise.

– The hell, is that...

The upper body is like a human being, but the lower one it's not of a human being. Her lower body changed, it was just like the mount, that is, the horse of moments ago.

Although that person attracted her attention, when she looks closely at her, the armament of the upper body is fairly thick, and the weapon, the spear, has become bigger.

– You look like a centaur that appears in the myths. So that's your full armament, huh.

– That's right.

Nodding, Elena shouted, holding the spear in her hand.

– Here I go! Haaaaaaaaaaaaa!

With her four legs, Elena rushes out.

(... she's fast!)

Her speed is considerable. Not only she's wielding a spear with which she can throw thrusts, but also can attack with a sharp *energy* blade.

Emilia stopped the blade with an E *barrier*.

– Haha, my arm is a little numb...

– This is not the end!

Getting closer this time, she swung downward the spear from above the head of Emilia.

– If that's the case, this will help!

Emilia created a shield with her *Arms Shroud*, trying to stop the blow.

– Such a thing, I will destroy it!

Those words were in the right.

By the attack of Elena whose eyes shone in a furious golden color, the shield was splendidly smashed.

– This is the end

The landing Elena lifted the spear high enough to swing it downward Emilia who is in front of her.

But—.

– It's a shame, but that's not going to happen.

– NANI!? (WHAT!?)

– This is what I was aiming for.

Looking at the arm of Emilia, it's her Buster Cannon loaded with *energy*.

– Take thiiiiiiiiis!

Shouting, Emilia fired a shot.

It's a point-blank range bombardment.

It's more than evident that she couldn't avoid it.

[Aaaand she is down! The participant Elena, who has become like a centaur with full armament is once again down due to participant Emilia's effective cleverness bombardment!]

Elena, who sprung three times over the battlefield, stopped moving.

The countdown started but stopped immediately.

The damage was almost zero.

– As one would expect of you.

– ...rather, it looks like the charge wasn't enough.

Emilia smiled bitterly, and reduced Buster Cannon to particles.

The match restarts.

– I, I can't afford to lose!

Elena's eyes shone in a golden color, assaulting Emilia with consecutive attacks.

However, Emilia kept dodging them all with precision.

– Why, why! Why I can't hit you!

– Because you've run out of patience.

Answering while evading the spear of Elena, Emilia set off an attack with the floating batteries.

But, she couldn't do any damage.

(A wide dimensional barrier due to N *barrier*...)

Since it has come to this, there's no choice but to floor* it with a direct attack.

***TN: To bring down, to knock down.**

Emilia dodged with a jump the thrust that Elena had released and at the same time she landed, she created a similar lance with *Arms Shroud*.

– Haaaaaaaaaaa!

To Emilia who was readied, Elena launched a sharp thrust.

It's an attack with a speed that is likely to be unavoidable if it's an ordinary Slayer that uses the ability of the Variant.

To the eyes of the spectators, it looked like she made it through the gap of Emilia who just created the lance, as if she was turning the tables with a single successful attack.

It is at that time.

Hayato was aware of the change in Emilia, but on her skin, and not in her eyes.

The nature of Emilia's energy has changed.

(No way—)

It was that *no way*.

Emilia's eyes, even if it was for an instant, got dyed in golden color.

She released the power of the Variant.

– This is going to be the first time that we will be seeing her releasing the <<Power to be a God>> don't yo— —

It was Charlotte that said that behind Hayato.

She didn't fail to notice that the color of the eyes of Emilia changed to a golden color for a moment.

– ...oh, Charlotte-san, what you just said is...

In a hurry, Hayato gave a reminder to Charlotte. That is, because both Fritz and Latia haven't been told that Hayato and Emilia are Variant.

But, Charlotte didn't stop her speech.

– If you think about it, it will be more difficult to keep this thing hidden. Both Fritz and Latia seemed to be aware of the change this time because of Gert, and the thing about the Variant is also being discussed in the media.

– Eh? Is that so?

– Yep, regardless of Emilia, there are rumors that you are a Variant, you know.

Hayato didn't know that at all.

– In the first place, weren't they a little suspicious?

– Well, a lot.

Facing Charlotte, Fritz replied. There, Charlotte continued speaking.

– But, you thought that it was bad to pry into something that was hidden, so you didn't ask about it.

– Umm, that...

– Well, let's talk about that after the match. Let's watch the match of Emilia for now.

He was truly grateful for that consideration.

Hayato returns his sight to the battlefield.

After repelling the spear of Elena with her lance, she reduced the lance into particles with a flowing gesture and created Buster Cannon with *Arms Shroud*.

– It's over with this.

Using the ability of the Variant, she loaded it with *energy* in one go.

It's different from a while ago.

Emilia tried to shoot the bombardment at full power.

At that same instant.

[Did I, lose?]

The voice of the heart of Elena flows into Emilia.

Empathy between the fellow Variants occurred.

What came after the flow is, the reason of her fight.

Emilia was able to see Elena when she was a very young child, training as a Slayer together with selected boys and girls.

She was selected as a talented Slayer when she was 5 years old, and because of that, she was ordered to enter a national training facility to enhance her abilities. She doesn't remember the faces or her father nor her mother. She has never met them since then.

Therefore, without knowing about the feelings of parents' affection and of course without knowing the feeling of love that girls of her age enjoy, Elena decided to devote her youth to martial arts training.

She knew the feeling of love after living for a long time in a training facility, when she became a member of the Oprichnik of Rasiya, and was assigned to the Slayer troops.

From the point of view of Elena who was trained as an elite even though she was a child, it was absurd that she could have opponents within the bunch of the same year, so practically, nobody became her opponent.

It's the same even if's a senpai.

However, there was a man who was different.

His name, Cezary Gravin.

It's a young man who was assigned to the Slayer troops half a year ago.

The guy had overwhelming strength, although he wasn't studying at the same training school.

Even though he had the same strength as her, he isn't proud of it, and keeps training every day.

With that much. Elena flustered for the first time.

Eventually Elena went to the battlefield with Cezary, fighting and entrusting their backs to each other.

Not only his manner to fight, but also his earnest attitude to continuously fight aiming for the top, made the palpitations of Elena to increase even more.

It's in the middle of that when he's injured in a fight with a Savage, it was a fatal wound.

She was rejected to meet him.

During the time they couldn't meet, her feelings for him further increased.

(If he gets to die, what am I going to do with these feelings of mine?)

But, he survived—

In no more than two months, he came back to the Slayer troops.

(Great! Now I won't be apart from him anymore. It was absolutely terrible that we were separated without conveying my feelings—)

Elena, who couldn't keep her patience there, decided to tell Cezary about her own feelings,

That night, she tried to confess Cezary—.

Elena was told that in fact Cezary is on the contrary.

That his past was glorious, and that he is a Variant.

The reason why he could become a Slayer and that he could survive the fatal wound received from a Savage is that he became a Variant in order to make that man, who instigated his sister Vitaly Tynyanov, to taste the same anguish in hell like Cezary did—he has a strong goal, to take revenge on Judal Harvey, the President of Warslan Company.

And, if she mingles with him, who's in such condition, there's a possibility that she may become a Variant, and in case she couldn't handle it, she was told that she would die.

But, Elena didn't withdraw with it, and her flame of love never disappeared.

— I don't care about that. Since I entered the training facility, my life was the same as if I was dead. But because I could fall in love with you, I was able to return being a person. If I can be of help to you by becoming a Variant, then it's fine to risk my life too.

— Thank you, Elena. Then, the moment when I fulfilled my revenge with Judal, you and— —.

That's right— —.

By winning this tournament, I will obtain real happiness.

Therefore, I can't lose.

— — I absolutely won't lose.

Emilia, for a moment.

— Hesitated to shoot.

Emilia can understand the feelings that resonated— —.

It was because she was able to sympathize with them.

(But, I'm sorry. After all, I can't lose— —)

Emilia shot the bombardment from a point-blank range.

Because of this, Elena fell down, returning from the centaur-like appearance to an ordinary human shape.

Her armament is also completely cancelled.

[Incredible! As expected of a semifinal. I wonder if this is the most intense fight up to now! It was the participant Emilia Hermit of Little Garden team who controlled the match!]

Following the buzzer telling the end of the game, Carol's narration resounded in the *stadium*.

– Amazing, as expect of Emilia-sama!

Claudia who was watching from the authorized space is excited too.

This is the third person— —.

If two more are knocked down, Little Garden can advance to the final.

– I managed to win.

Emilia said, coming back to the waiting space.

Indicated by the official at the battlefield, the relief squad of the tournament carried Elena on the stretcher.

Apparently, her consciousness hasn't returned yet.

– To think that you used the ability of the Variant.

It was Charlotte who called out Emilia.

– Ahaha.

Laughing a little troubled, Emilia replied.

– I probably could have won without using it, but if I didn't do it, then the match may have prolonged and I could have ended up hurt too— —oh...

Saying that much, Emilia noticed.

– Wait, Charlotte! **That's** a secret— —

– Well, I doubt about that...

Charlotte stated that Hayato and Emilia are Variant, so she can use Emilia to leave that exposed to Fritz and Latia.

– Eeh, is that so?

Hayato said to Emilia, whose surprise is justified.

– Charlotte-san overcome me. I certainly thought that it was impossible to keep the secret any longer, it was inevitable.

– Uu, even though it was a secret between you and me.

– But the Student Council knew it.

Hayato was just saying that.

– Emilia Hermit, will you go for the next one masu?

Claire asked.

– I can still afford to fight. But—

Emilia answered and looked at the wing of Rasiya side.

Who is about to go out to the battlefield is the destined opponent of Hayato.

It's Gert Abramovic.

– Hayato, you are going, right?

Looking to Hayato who's nodding, Erika asks.

– Claire-sama, is that all right?

– About the promise, of course it is desu. We still have leeway, so I respect Kisaragi Hayato's wish masuwa.

– Well then, let's change.

After a *high touch* with Emilia.

Hayato, standing in front of everyone, said his words of gratitude.

– Emilia. President, and everyone. Thank you very much for going along with my will.

– There is no need for such words wayo.

Claire said, and continued her words.

– Go and win. That is what you have to do desuwa.

– Yes, just like the President said.

– Win, Hayato.

Latia and Fritz.

– Do your best.

He even heard the voice of Nesat.

– Yeah, I'll win. For sure—

Answering, Hayato started walking towards the center of the battlefield.

Gert, who was waiting, smiled with a grin after seeing Hayato.

– So, my opponent is you bastard?

Hayato nods and answers.

– The enemies of Touka, I'll defeat them all.

A few minutes before Hayato and Gert gathered at the center of the battlefield.

On the bed in the sickroom inside the venue, Kanzaki Touka was shaking her fists.

[Oh wow, Little Garden has also made a substitution here! Kisaragi Hayato-san changed with Emilia Hermit-san who showed a wonderful fight! It's the entry of Kisaragi Hayato-san! This is the first match in which Kisaragi Hayato-san does his entry]

– Shinshishō...

Looking at Hayato projected on the screen along with the announcer's live coverage, Touka's tremors become even more intense.

It's not due to tension.

Even though there's a person who will fight for her now, she regrets that she can only cheer for him on television, she can't help but feel miserable.

——she would like to support Hayato, as close as possible.

Losing the will to hold her feelings, Touka got off the bed.

– ...kkuh...!

Her body is still in pain.

Even if she was bedridden for a few days, she had a hard time walking.

Still, Touka left the room.

To see the battle properly with her own eyes.

As close as possible, to support <<Shinshishō>> *Hayato*——.

Touka came out of the hospital room, and managed to get to the authorized people space, holding the handrail installed on the wall of the *stadium*.

– Touka-san, what are you doing in this place?

– Huh?

It was Souffle, the manager of Sakura and Karen who spoke to Touka.

She finished the phone call of work during the break of the match and found Touka's figure on her way back to her seat.

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Touka answered Souffle while showing a scared look.

– ...I wanted to see the battle of Shinshishō with my own eyes, rather than over the monitor. So...

– Good grief, it can't be helped.

Shocked, and smiling, Souffle continued.

– If so, then I will guide you to your seat. This way.

Souffle walks, taking the hand of Touka.

Sakura and Karen were in the place they reached.

– Oh, Touka-chan.

– Why is she here?

– She sneaked out of the sickroom, and I found her. I'm glad that we made it just in time for the match.

– Ah...

Touka, looking at Hayato who has *Hien* at the ready, opened her eyes widely. Facing Gert who has already deployed his armament, he opened his hands and showed his posture.

[Who's the one that will have the control in this destined confrontation? the match of Kisaragi Hayato vs Gert Abramovic, begins!]

Following Carol's announcement, the buzzer sounded in the *stadium*.

At last, the destined battle opens its curtains.

The body of Gert is big and above the average, however, he is a Martial Arts Type Slayer. His weapon are knuckles, their reach is only the length of his own arms.

On the other hand, the armament of Hayato is *Hien*, a Chevalier Type Hundred.

The blade of that weapon is around 2 meters, and it's possible to put an *aura* with *energy* on it.

Regarding to reach, Hayato is superior.

Just thinking about compatibility, he can set off attacks without letting Gert come near, the victory of Hayato is almost settled—

That was the analysis of the battle situation of Charlotte.

And just like that, the fight goes on.

At first Gert had a good momentum, desperately avoiding the attacks of Hayato. He wasn't able to launch an attack for almost a minute.

Besides, it looks like he was growing impatient.

— Damn iiiiiiiiiii— — — — t!

Gert turned desperate, spreading his arms in a big way, then he leapt in to catch Hayato.

(Now!)

Hayato's blow moved to hit the bosom that was full of gaps.

— Haaaaaaaaa— — — — !

Hien shone with *energy*, hitting directly the abdomen of Gert.

— Guh, agh...

Gert bent forward almost at the center of the battlefield, falling to the ground after that.

[Ooooooh my! Participant Gert is down! He is down!]

1, 2, the count started.

But, Krovanh muttered.

– ... it won't be a TKO with this much.

The reason is simple.

The data on his *vital* and *energy* remaining are over the half.

And just like Krovanh conjectured, Gert got up at the count of 6 and turned his eyes to Cezary at the standby place.

Not only Hayato, but everyone in Little Garden team also understood the meaning of that action.

It's to ask if he can unleash the ability of the Variant.

Cezary nodded and shouted.

– Do it, Gert! Use all your power, and defeat that man——Kisaragi Hayato!

– I was waiting for those words!

Gert's eyes shone golden and his whole body shone tempestuously with *energy*.

The situation released is, that his whole body produced a thick armor.

The armament of Martial Arts type——

The full armament of <<Hell's Gate>> *Val Beck*.

His appearance is similar to *Hercules* that appears in myths, he's wearing a thick steel armor.

– Here I go, oraaaaaaa——h!!!

While violently shaking the battlefield, Gert attacks.

– Uooooooooooh!

Hayato shouts at the same time he charges in opposition at Gert.

From his whole body, fierce *energy* was released.

Looking at that figure, Latia shouted.

– It's full armament!

Exactly.

A thick armor covers the whole body of Hayato.

The figures of the two, became what seemed to be like heavy equipment.

However, unlike their appearances, the attack speed of both of them continued to rise.

Fists and sword, clashing.

By using a big portion of the battlefield, the two intersect countless times.

As far as they can see, Gert is the one who's assaulting.

– Dieeeeeee, Kisaragi Hayatooooooooooooo—!!

Gert drives Hayato to the wall of the battlefield, cornering him, then raised his big fist overhead.

Hayato who can't escape backwards anymore readied *Hien* in a low position and tried to respond it.

— — — kuh!

Fist and sword collide.

At first, it seemed that they were on par.

But— —.

– Uoooooooooooooooo— — — — —!

Gert's eyes shine violently, *Hien* is pressed down.

– Guuh!

Hayato's facial expression is distorted in difficulty.

The feeling was like he was being pinned down by a gigantic dinosaur that was charging at him with both arms.

– That's terrible, at this pace he....

Latia muttered so.

If *Hien* snaps, Hayato is going to get crushed.

But, Emilia wasn't perturbed.

– Don't worry, from here on is Hayato's specialty.

She told that to Latia to calm her down.

– His specialty you say, don't tell me...

Following Latia, Fritz said.

– The liberation of Variant's ability, right?

– Exactly.

At the same time Emilia smiles meaningfully.

Hayato's eyes shone in a golden color.

Gert seems to have noticed it.

[Crap, this guy was also a Variant! But, there's no way I can lose. I *ain't* losing to anyone! I should be the strongest!]

Together with that shout, the thought of Gert flows into Hayato.

– Ha-ha-ha, *I'm the number one!*

Gert, who was blessed with his physique since his childhood, was never defeated in quarrels.

With that he earned money, and possessed women.

He had a large number of followers.

Although he wasn't a nice person, he told himself that with his unique ability he would become a wrestler or a boxer, earn a lot of money, then have even more women, and live a happy life.

But it was impossible to get that due to the appearance of Hundred and Slayers.

A fuss was made because his physical strength was not the most powerful. The state of things ended in a global scale, due to the presence of the ability of the Hundred.

The opponents who can win overwhelmingly will lose if the ones with ordinary strength make use of the Hundred and *energy*.

Naturally, not only the women, but also his followers disappeared from his

side.

In such a situation he started to commit acts of violence, being arrested by the police.

Cezary met Gert by chance.

– Do you want power, correct?

Cezary himself turned Gert in a member of the secret police, and attached him to the Slayer troops.

He told him that he is a Variant, and that their numbers are pretty low among the Slayers.

And— —.

– If I hand you my power, your physique and your martial arts skill will be the highest, so you'll be able to become the strongest Slayer.

He told so.

However, it had conditions.

He will be a subordinate under direct supervision of Cezary, and will work for 3 years. This means that this will be his penal servitude.

In other words, it means that Cezary will cooperate to increase the power within the Federation of Rasiya.

Depending on his performance, the period may be shortened.

He didn't have the minimal idea about how to work under other people.

But he accepted.

If with that he can gain power.

Not long ago, no one could go against him or defeat him, so he will have to bear that much— —and.

It's only been a year since that day.

However, Cezary told him that the period of penal servitude will end as soon as they get the championship of team battles of this competition.

Now he's a yes-man of Cezary, but if they get the championship, he will regain

the glory of his former days.

In addition to the fame of the tournament, the women, the followers, he will take back everything.

That's the meaning of his fight.

That was the goal of this tournament.

To be defeated, he won't allow it no matter what.

— Damn iiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii———t!

The *Hien* of Hayato repelled the fist of Gert.

— No way, it can't be! I can't lose! I'm invincible. I don't lose to anyone!! I obtain all, everything that I waaaaant!!

While yelling in tears, Gert tried to hit Hayato again.

He swung his arms in a big way, he's full of gaps.

— This, is the end.

He can't sympathize with his feelings, but he can understand them.

Used by Cezary and made into an artificial Variant, he thinks that it's just pitiable.

However, as things are, he will be completely dominated by the Variant Virus, not just his body, but his heart too.

That is to say, he won't be a human being. As a result, he will result a victim like Touka.

That's a bad thing for sure.

Hayato slashed at Gert with *Hien* from his current position as he readied it from a low position.

It's a win.

— Gu, a——

Gert, who revolved around the air in response to Hayato's blow, fell to the ground after a few seconds.

[We have a winner! Participant Kisaragi Hayato of Little Garden has succeeded!]

Following the buzzer telling Hayato's victory, Carol's announcement sounded in the *stadium*.

[Wow, just like the previous match, this was an amazing game. Even so, participant Gert, as well as participant Hayato, both of them had a change in the color of their eyes, then that means that, it's possible that those guys are the rumored Variants, don't you agree?]

– Uwaa...

Hayato understands the certainly about the rumor of being a Variant.

However, that seemed to increase the popularity of Hayato instead.

– That's incredible!

– Show us a great match the next time too!

Those voice and the like, dived into the ears of Hayato who has just cancelled his armament.

Those voices, were a lot numerous in comparison to the previous match.

(... wait, that girl. What is she doing here?)

Hayato realized that Touka was in the special seats together with Sakura and Karen.

But, the situation is strange.

It looks like she's screaming frantically for something.

Sakura, and Karen are the same.

The spectators also began to make noise.

– Hayato, behind you!

– Huh?

In response to Emilia's shout, Hayato looked back.

There, Gert stands.

His eyes are shining in a golden color.

– Kisa...ra...gi...Haya...to...

Pause after pause, he murmured those words while breathing in between.

– /! /! I'll never be defeateeeeeeeeeeeee—d!

Latia raised her voice in anger, watching the body of Gert covered once again in armor.

– The hell is with that guy!? Even though the match is over already!

– Oooooooooo! *KISARAGI HAYATOOOO*———!

Gert shouted loudly, rushing on Hayato.

In a panic, Hayato grasps tightly his Hundred and tries to deploy it—.

– Eh...?

Gert's movement stopped, like a marionette with all of its threads cut.

On the contrary,

– *Cough*

He vomited blood from his mouth and fell from the front, he no longer moves on the battlefield.

Naturally, his armament has been cancelled.

– Hey, you okay?

Squatting down, Hayato speaks to Gert.

But there's no reaction.

His eyes are white, and he's not breathing.

Immediately the official of the tournament and the relief squad get where they were, and began to check the state of Gert.

– There's nothing to worry about. Hayato didn't do anything bad.

Emilia spoke to Hayato who came back to the waiting space with a heavy expression.

Latia also called him out.

– Touka was also sent to the relief room. A tit for tat.

– It's as the chibi* says.

***TN: Extracted from urbandictionary: A Japanese word meaning “short” or “midget.” The word chibi is often taken offensively when directed toward a person. Japanese equivalent of “shrimp” or “shortcake.”**

– Huuh? Who's a chibi!?

Latia stares at Krovanh who said that she was chibi.

But without paying attention to it, Krovanh glared at Rasiya team.

– In the first place, those guys are to blame for making Gert a Variant. He couldn't control it properly. It's natural for that to happen, when fighting the *real deal*.

Real deal—

They heard that he is a Variant, and not an artificial one.

– In short, the one who did it's him?

It's Cezary, the captain of Rasiya team, who turned his hostility gaze towards Nakri.

– Kisaragi Hayato, I will substitute you desu. I will be the next one to go masuwa.

Claire said, glancing at the figure of Cezary.

– Oh, but...

And naturally, Hayato is perplexed.

The next one to come out, it's without a doubt Cezary.

The information is that he is a real Variant, that's what Hayato and the others heard last night.

That means he's not an artificial one, but that he's a natural Variant—moreover, the information says that he transmitted the Variant Virus to Gert and Elena.

There's no doubt that he's a strong enemy.

He may be an opponent who an ordinary man can't fight.

Still, Claire continued.

– ...Be at ease desuwa. I am the <<Absolutely Invincible Queen>> *Perfect Queen* desumono. Besides, if I get to lose, we still have one more person arimasu. In that case——.

It was Nesat that Claire turned her eyes.

– We will be counting on you masuwa, Nesat Olfred.

She wasn't expecting to be nominated.

Surprised, with her eyes opened in a big way, Nesat nodded.

– ...understood.

– Well then, I will go masu.

Claire begins to walk with a relieved smile.

A voice called her from the back.

– Err, Claire-sama!

– What is it desuno?

Claire looked back.

She wants her to stop.

But, she knows that she won't stop.

Therefore, Erika said.

– Plea-, please do your best!

– Of course desuwa.

Claire answered with security, and showed a smile.

At the same time, Cezary was also coming out to the battlefield.

Claire and Cezary.

Facing each other at the center of the battlefield.

Cezary was the first to start the conversation.

– No way, for the Queen of Little Garden to come out as the fourth player, I'm surprised.

– At any rate, I think that this is going to be exciting, a combat between fellow representatives.

After she smiled.

Claire threw her Hundred in the sky and shouted.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

Claire is wrapped in intense light emitted from the Hundred.

– Now...

When she revealed her appearance, everyone was astounded.

The reason is, not only she deployed <<Noble Combatant Princess>> *Alisterion*, but also, she was in a full armament state.

[Wooooow! Participant Claire. Going straight with full armameeeent!]

With Carol's announcement, great cheers arose.

But, not only Hayato and the others didn't know the reason, since Cezary, who's in front of her, had a dumbfounded facial expression.

– Full armament all of a sudden. What on earth are your intentions?

– You are my opponent so, I concluded that I must go with all of my strength from the beginning desu. Also, it is for the same thing that I said a few moments ago desuwane.

– ...hmm, what do you mean?

– This way, I thought that it will be more exciting.

– You were referring to that. Then I should do the same.

Like Claire, Cezary also smiled, grasped tightly his Hundred and shouted.

– ——*HUNDRED ON!*

Like he declared, he's in full armament.

Cezary's body is covered in a thick red armor.

The type of Cezary's Hundred.

<< Purgatory Blazing Falcon>> *Era Shashka*.

[Oh ho, following the Queen of Little Garden, now even the captain of Rasiya, in answer, has also starting from a full armament state! This will be the first time in the tournament that a battle starts in a full armament state! Because of this, we are expecting that the captains will clash with each other with all they have from the beginning!]

The countdown to the start of the match, on the ground that will take place, have become completely silent.

When it became zero, the buzzer of the beginning of the battle rang.

[Now, the match between the Queen of Little Garden, Claire Harvey, and the representative of Rasiya team, Cezary Gravin, will begin!]

Almost simultaneously with the start of the match.

– Take this!

Claire deployed six floating batteries around Cezary.

She commenced her attack.

Cezary also started to move, swinging down his sword while dodging.

He created an *energy* blade in order to destroy the floating batteries.

First, he destroyed one floating battery.

After defending from the shots released from the other floating batteries with an *E barrier*, he released another *energy* blade and destroyed a second floating battery.

– This will do masuwane.

Claire restored the destroyed floating batteries. There, Cezary began to attack.

While dodging his sword, Claire started to attack with guns from the left and right, and with the floating batteries.

However, even if she hit him, for some reason she can't do any damage to

Cezary who's in a full armament state.

– If so——<<Small Floating Batteries>> *Petals*!

Claire floated in the air using six floating batteries as a <<Propulsion Device>> *thruster* and a total of 12 *petals* were emitted.

She shot towards Cezary.

However, all the beams were stopped by his wide area *barrier*.

But, of course, that's just a decoy.

– How about this desuno?

Claire reduced to particles the six floating batteries. She created Buster Cannon and shot in the direction of Cezary

However, it seems that also didn't work.

– What!?

Cezary appears with golden eyes from inside the fumes of the explosion that flew high.

It's the awakening of the ability of the Variant.

Claire tried to step back to dodge the launched slash, but the pointed of the sword hits, touching lightly her chest.

Then a part of the chest of the Variable Suit was avoided.

Cezary set a series of consecutive attacks that flew without a pause.

The moment he released a thrust, his eyes shone aggressively in golden color.

(This is problematic desuwane. At this rate I——)

He did it.

And the moment she thought so.



DOKUN!

Claire's heart beat fast.

The center of her body got hotter.

(This is, can it be—)

It reminds her about what happened in the middle of <<Operation: Bird in Cage>>.

In order to beat the <<Flying Dragon Type>> *Dragon Type* Savage, she had to kiss Kisaragi Hayato, so her state immediately after doing that, and her current state, are very similar.

The difference is that, the world is in *slow motion*.

With her eyes, she can follow the slowly approaching pointed end of the sword of Cezary

(Now with this, I can dodge it masuwa...!)

Claire, dodging the point of the sword by putting her body in a diagonal posture, shot the *railgun* in her right hand towards Cezary's face.

—*DON!*

At the same time the shot caught the face of Cezary, the world regained its original motion.

— Alright, she did it!

Looking at the President who dodged the sword of Cezary and hit the shot, Fritz jumped up with a triumphant pose.

— ...hmm, Latia. What's the matter?

Latia, who was supposed to be joyful as she jumped like he did, had a look that was expressing a dumbfounded face.

Because he was concerned about that, he asked her.

— Now, and for an instant, did the eyes of the President shone in golden color?

— ...eh, is that so?

— That's what I saw. What about you, Hayato?

- Err, that...
- You saw it?
- That's...

It sure was different.

However, he felt the change in the nature of the *energy* in her body, so she definitely awoke the ability of the Variant.

- Wait, Hayato!
- Ouch!

Emilia suddenly pinched Hayato's cheeks as he was about to respond Latia.

Pressing a question to Hayato, tears were floating in her eyes,

– Say, why the Prez can awake the ability of the Variant!? Moreover, I have a hunch that that *energy* was similar to the one of Hayato! Does that mean that you kissed the Prez!? Or else, how could she do such an awesome thing!? Tell me!

- What, what did you say!?

It was Erika who raised her voice following Emilia. Her face was bright red, and just like Emilia, approached her body and pressed a question.

- Kisaragi Hayato, what di-di-di-di-did you do to Claire-sama...!?
- We, well, please wait a moment, Erika-san. I didn't do anything!
- ...Hayato...

Approaching to attack like Erika and Emilia did, it was Nesat who tapped with a *TON TON* on the shoulder of Hayato from the back.

- ...wh-what is it?

Nesat said to Hayato who was turning his head with nervousness.

– It was at the time of <<Operation: Bird in Cage>>. Hayato kissed the President, so he gave her the Virus.

- Ah...!

With that words, Hayato remembered.

– Now I remember!

Apparently, Emilia also remembered.

Certainly, at the time of <<Operation: Bird in cage>>, Hayato kissed Claire and gave her the Variant Virus to defeat the *Dragon type Savage*.

– In other words, the effect of that time still remains inside the President?

Besides that, they can't think of something conclusive now.

So Hayato nodded and answered Emilia.

– I guess that it's that kind of thing.

Just like Hayato and Emilia, Claire has reached the same conclusion.

(This thing of him, that remains inside of me... It's like, I am being protected by Kisaragi Hayato desuwane...)

Moreover, appeared as a chance.

To win, Claire turned into the offensive, so she had to make use of this opportunity.

Using the six floating batteries as thrusters to float in the air, she turned all the muzzles towards Cezary.

(So this is the ability of the Variant... it is amazing desuwane)

Claire thought that because the *energy* was loaded in all six floating batteries in a blink of an eye.

If all of them attack simultaneously with the maximum potency and strength, even if Cezary regains his posture and deploys a barrier, there's no doubt that she will be able to cause damage.

– Take this!

Claire fired the beams all at once, the six floating batteries of her aiming at Cezary.

– ...how was it desuno?

With this, Cezary is down— —.

Even if that's not the case, he has taken a lot of damage, therefore, the battle after this should proceed with ease. However, two golden lights appeared from the cloud of dust that arose due to the bombardment— —.

(Looks like he was protected by the ability of the Variant desuwane...)

As the cloud of dust disappeared, she could confirm the figure of Cezary, who was protecting his body, crossing both arms in front of his chest.

(...this did nothing, to be honest, this is very bad desuwane....)

If the ability of the Variant collides with each other, then Claire is definitely in disadvantage.

At any rate, the Variant Virus inside Claire is only a small quantity given from Kisaragi Hayato— —and she doesn't know how long can it last.

There's also the possibility that she may have run out of it, due to its use moments ago.

(Even if I lose, I have to figure out how much that man is able to awaken the ability of the Variant wane...)

Additionally, if she can reduce as much as possible his *vital* and *energy*, then a possibility will be created for Nesat, who is the next one to participate, to win.

(In that case, I have to attack him more, desuwa!)

Claire tried to deploy the *petals* again.

Right there, Cezary suddenly raised both hands.

— This match, don't you want to end it?

— Huuh?

Naturally, Claire is puzzled.

— What do you mean with that desuno?

— I'm saying that I give up.

— But with that decision, won't Rasiya team be eliminated masuwayo?

— Yes but, it can't be helped, don't you agree?

Seeming like a preface, Cezary continued speaking.

– Two Slayers boasting overwhelming abilities in our country have been knocked down. Although we have other Slayers, as things are, it will be difficult for Rasiya team to win in the future.

– But, your power is considerable if I say so. At this rate, if you defeat me, it won't be impossible for you to advance to the finals de— —

– Stop joking. As you could see from the previous fight, it will be impossible. Right now, I can't help but being worried about my friends Elena and Gert. I'm not in a state where I can fight properly.

–

Claire couldn't measure his real intention.

However, if Cezary gave up with this, they can proceed to the finals which is the next step without consuming much physical strength or *energy*.

That is of course appreciated.

But he is the brother of that Vitaly.

She knows that he is not being straightforward.

– Are you really okay with this desune?

She doesn't know when he is going to attack.

While wary, Claire asks.

– Of course, I'm fine with it. I can show you a proof of that.

Cezary nodded, raised his arms, and cancelled his armament.

[Whooa, participant Cezary cancelled his armament. What on earth is happening in there? Is he... perhaps, giving up?]

Carol was showing confusion. The spectators are in the same condition.

Anyway, it seems natural that Cezary looked superior.

The commotion is very intense.

– Referee in charge, he has declared that is giving up masuwa. Any disarmament during a match should be treated in the same way as a knock out according to rules desu. Please announce the end of the match soon.

Claire said.

It's inevitable to have an uneasy feeling if the match it's not decided at once.

[Err, please wait just a minute]

The referee team was also showing confusion to the suddenly declaration of giving up.

However, as Claire said, the armament has been cancelled, so a give up is a give up.

Immediately, the discussion is over.

– The surrender of Cezary Gravin is approved, the winner is Claire Harvey!

With a few words of the referee team, the match is over.

With this, the victory of Little Garden team has finalized in 5 – 3.

It was determined that Little Garden proceeds to the finals.

A little over 2 hours have passed since the end of the match of Little Garden team and Rasiya team in the stadium that was wrapped in commotion.

One of the related parties, Cezary Gravin, was in the maintenance room prepared by the Rasiya government.

He's waiting for the report of Frorov.

(To think that Claire Harvey was a Variant...)

Of course, surrender was not his true intention.

However, even if he fought like that, he didn't know if he could win.

In case he lost, escaping from responsibilities was not an option.

Pull out once so you can start over.

He can think of anything, if there's a reason for his withdrawal.

(Depending on the situation, Frorov will be the responsible of all the blame)

If he keeps his position, sooner or later the time will come to revenge on Judal.

But, there's still time.

That was the answer given by Cezary.

—

The sound of the door opening reached his ears.

Cezary stood up from the chair and turned his eyes towards the door.

Finally, Frorov came back.

— There's nothing else to do with Gert.

That's the first thing Frorov said.

— And Elena?

— She's unconscious. From here on, we can just speculate.

— I see.

— That's why I told you to not overdo it with the reinforcement.

Frorov leant his back on the chair.

— The higher-ups of Rasiya are in indignation. This defeat wasn't just a defeat. It's a defeat that will incline doubts around the world. We have been requested already for an investigation from the United Nations. Do you know the meaning of that?

— Of course.

The creation of artificial Variant is an act that goes against the human rights.

And in order to win this tournament, Rasiya created artificial Variant——

Furthermore, if they fail, and if it drives to the death of a Slayer, it will be a big incident.

— I thought that if you were involved then I could have a successful career, so it would have become possible for me to do all kind of studies, but it turns out that my judgment was a mistake. It's truly regrettable. With this, the destiny of an excellent Slayer comes to an end——

— What do you mean?

The expression of Cezary who received Frorov's words became grim.

– I will accuse you to the federal government that it was your order to turn those two into artificial Variants, who sacrificed themselves to become stronger. There's a recording data of that.

– Bastard, you intend to cover all your crimes with *me*!? In the first place, the idea of using artificial Variant with my blood was yours!

While raging, Cezary grabbed the collar of Frorov.

The body of Frorov that was sitting on the chair is lifted.

– ... hmm. If you look at me, I might be a senile old fool, but I'm still in my sixties. There's still life for me. There are a lot of research and other things to do. In your life, up to now, you've reached the top, but my position is—

– Kuh...

As a Slayer, Cezary climbed to the top, he was in the highest position, but Frorov has a better position inside the federation. He also has strong connections with high government officials, so even if Cezary says anything, the words of Frorov have more weight. However, the scope of his words is as long as he's alive.

– It was lamentable, Cezary. You lost the bet.

– Hahah, hahahahahah! Don't screw around with me, you dotard!

As the broken Cezary laughed, Frorov was thrown to the floor.

– As expected of someone who made the best use of his brain, who ascended to the top until being a senior engineer. But, unfortunately you bastard committed one big mistake—

Frorov searched his glasses with his hands, then he tried to get up.

However, the lenses were broken.

What appears in his blurred vision is the figure of Cezary who held the Hundred in his hand.

– *HUNDRED ON.*

– The hell, you mongrel...! What are you planning to do!

Looking at Cezary who had deployed the armament, Frolov was shaking in fear.

– I’ve decided. I’ll dispose of the rebel that created the artificial Variants using my blood to boost his own name.

Grinning and smiling, Cezary moved, approaching Frorov.

– If I close your mouth here, all my crimes will disappear. They call it dead men tell no tales.

– Khh

Frorov began to run, trying to escape.

However, he was beaten to the ground and received a considerable damage. He can’t run straight, and the distance to the door is still too far.

– So disappointed. Your mistake was coming to this place alone——

Cezary swung downward the sword on the back of Frorov.

– Guah!

The scream of Frorov echoes in the room, fresh blood flies around.

– ...you betrayed the federation, like you did with my sister...

He kept Frorov on the floor, and muttered with resentment.

– ...I’ll take revenge on Judal Harvey, no matter what. I have to do something with his ideals.

– What a selfish guy...

– You aren’t quite the one to say that here.

When Cezary appeared in this maintenance room, there was a person observing the whole story from above the ceiling until Frorov died.

It’s a woman belonging to Warslan intelligence department.

She quickly decided to report the situation to Neveah Grauss, her boss.

After receiving it, Neveah began to process the corpse of Frorov, confirming the trend of Cezary and Rasiya——she headed to report to Judal.

– Hou, Cezary did something like that...

– On top of that, I discovered that he has planned a murder— —that is, to take a revenge on Judal-sama. Recording data from the intelligence department also exists.

– If so, we should take measures in advance. Please send the recording data to Pope-sama. I will seek her direct cooperation.

– Understood. I will send it immediately.

Then Judal without delay picked up the PDA and got in touch with Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III, the Pope of *Puritaria*.

At the same time that the call connected, Serivia called out.

[Did something happen, Judal-san?]

– I am truly sorry to resort to this when is this late at night. There is something important that I have to talk. Can we change to a private line? I would like you to check your e-mail in advance.

[Understood]

Judal got in touch with her again. And just like before, it's Serivia who began to talk.

[I just checked the e-mail now]

– Could you please cooperate with us? In case you can, I would like you to deal with it quickly.

[In other words, you arranged it beforehand to tell the same story?]

– It's just as you said.

[He, who is a person possessing the blood of God— —I don't think that we can defeat him with ordinary methods]

– We will attack with several people from the assassination corps of Warslan Company, including Slayers, at the same time. We may have some casualties, but we will be able to make of Cezary Gravin a dead person.

[That confidence is reassuring. But just in case, I will prepare soldiers here as well]

– I understand. I am grateful for that.

[The preparation of the plan isn't near perfection. How about doing it in approximately 24 hours later?]

Judal had no objection.

Of course he instantly understood Serivia, because the decided date was earlier than expected.

– Not a problem at all. I will contact you with the details of the plan later.

The next day, almost at the same hour.

The weather is cloudy and the moon can't be seen. The weather is perfect for assassination.

Warslan assassination corps was surrounding the room of the hotel where Cezary is lodging. Neveah is the leader.

There, she made a signal to the first assassination corps. The shooting corps started to move.

They made a simultaneous invasion, breaking two windows.

Then they fired at the same time towards the bed of Cezary who should be asleep.

Then they threw grenades.

The bed exploded violently.

If the task was done with it, it would have been simple.

However, it didn't go like that.

Cezary appeared in an armed condition from the explosion.

It was because of Frorov.

It's possible that the federal government is targeting his life because it was revealed that he is the murder.

As he thought, wearing his Hundred while sleeping was a success.

And then, the moment the assassins started to move.

By intuition, Cezary sensed that the ambience was strange, so he immediately armed in the futon and deployed a wide area barrier with E *barrier* around his body. It prevented the shooting of the assassins.

– ...huh, who the hell are you?

Cezary asked the assassin who stopped shooting.

– I’m asking you bastards! Are you from the federation? Or are you terrorists?

Cezary shouted.

His own Hundred. He pointed the sword of *Era Shashka* to the assassins.

But, nobody answered.

On the contrary, they resumed the shooting at the signal of one person.

– Well, if you don’t want to answer, then I’ll make you talk.

Shouting, Cezary was about to start moving. Then, even more assassins appeared from behind the shooting assassins.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

– *HUNDRED ON!*

– *HUNDRED ON!*

The newly appeared assassins deployed their armaments on the move.

They rushed to attack Cezary, holding their weapons.

– Hmm, so even they are Slayers. That means you aren’t terrorists of the anti-Slayer association.

Cezary swung his sword.

He tried to mow down the shooters, generating an *energy*-based blade.

However, the Slayers extinguished it, blocking it with an E *barrier*.

– I see, you are decent. But, will you be able to defeat me?

The number of Slayers is four.

All of them are *specialists* of assassination.

However— —

— You may have training, but you are no more than small fries to me!

Cezary's eyes shone in golden color.

A thick armor covered his body.

He activated the ability of the Variant— —and with it, full armament.

One assassin was knocked down, then another one, then they were disarmed.

He has an overwhelming strength.

However, if the ability of the Variant is liberated with full armament, both his physical strength and *energy* will be consumed in large quantities.

And prior to that, the amount consumed in the fight with Claire Harvey hasn't recovered, so he can't fight for a long time.

But, there are only two assassins remaining.

If that's the case, he can't afford to lose.

He can't be defeated.

Cezary kept a smile of complacency and tried to set an attack on the remaining two assassins.

However, reinforcements appeared there.

A woman jumped into the room.

It's Neveah Grauss, Judal's follower.

Of course, she was armed.

<<Proof of love>> *Dedicated Heart*.

Her Hundred is an Arsene type.

With two knives, Neveah set off an attack on Cezary.

— ... kuh! You are the woman of Judal. That means, this is a surprise attack!

The knives of Neveah were stopped by the sword of Cezary.

But, it doesn't matter.

Her aim was to create a gap to let the other two attack Cezary.

– Now, attack Cezary!

When Neveah shouted, the two assassins started to move, aiming at Cezary.

Cezary smiled with a *FUN*.

– Was that your purpose? But, don't you dare to think that you can stop me with these stuff!

Cezary's eyes beyond the armor showed a fierce brilliance.

Cezary's power increased instantaneously with the power of the Variant, he brushed away the knives of Neveah and released a slash accompanied with *energy* one after another.

A huge *energy* blade was released.

The power was so strong that it made a big hole in the wall.

Even Neveah and the other two Slayers were blown off to the corridor.

– Such a bad luck you have, Judal. Better start to dig your own grave, hahah, hahahahahah!

Neveah fell lying face down, and looked up at Cezary who was laughing with an astonished expression.

(This is, the ability of the Variant...!)

Neveah's ability as a Slayer is quite high.

Speaking of reaction values, she is somewhat inferior to Claire Harvey, sister of Judal Harvey. Not even once during her life was cornered to a wall by a human opponent.

(Still, I can feel the danger on my life if this continues like this—)

But, she mustn't lose.

If she doesn't kill him here, Cezary Gravin will accuse Judal to the UN, which will make him lose his position.

That's a situation that must be avoided at all cost.

Neveah stood up.

After all, even she has skill remaining.

No matter how much of an opponent a Variant is, both his *energy* and *vital* are about to reach their limits soon.

That's what she can tell by looking at him.

(Besides, the operation on the side of Puritaria will take a while to make it here. But, how much can be trusted what the Pope have said...?)

Neveah doesn't know.

That's why it's for the best to handle Cezary herself,

— Hou, so you could get up. As expected of the woman of Judal.

When he saw Neveah standing up, Cezary smiled and grinned.

— That's why, I'll have to murder you. To give despair to that man—

— I can't lose. If I'm defeated, then I will die. Only those who are alive, can stay to the side of the ones they love. Something like death, how am I going to bear it!

If it has come to this, then it's useless, it can't be helped.

Neveah attempted to go with all that she had, a full throttle with full armament.

But—

— Neveah, you've said something good.

PACHI PACHI, claps sounded.

The voice and clapping were emitted from a man standing beyond the big hole opened in the room.

Looking at that figure, Cezary unexpectedly gave a surprised voice.

— JUDAL!!

— Judal-sama, why?

Almost at the same time, Neveah also gave a surprised voice.

Her full armament was left in a state of suspension.

She didn't hear Judal appearing on this place. Because of that much, she was agitated a lot.

– Excuse my late night visit, Cezary Gravin. No, should I call you Vassily Tynyanov?

– You bastard... why, do you...

Cezary canceled the armor of his head and stared at Judal with his eyes.

– Your sister taught me that.

PACHIN, Judal snapped his fingers.

Thereupon, the electricity of the room is restored, and a floating monitor lighted up.

The figure of Vitaly Tynyanov is projected.

[Long time no see, Vassily]

– What...Nee-san?

His sister that he thought was dead, suddenly appeared.

Naturally, Cezary, who's Vassily, his expression had a color of confusion.

[The first time in ten years, huh? I never imagined that your figure could change that much, even your name changed]

– What, what the hell is this, Judal Harvey!? My Nee-san, she was of use to you, then you killed her...

[Yep. He used me well, then I was killed]

It's not Judal but Vitaly that answered.

She put her index finger on her head and continued her words.

[But, at least the brain is alive. It's connected to the main computer of Little Garden and in this way, I remain in this world. Even if I died, I'm being of good use for Judal, you know]

Hahaha, Vitaly laughed happily.

Cezary can't understand the meaning of that laugh.

– That it's fine for you to being used, how it's possible for Nee-san to be smiling like that! After Nee-san was arrested for becoming a criminal, I really felt the despair and taste of hell. Without being able to laugh, every day that passed by became like hell— —.

Cezary's shoulders were trembling quickly.

It was harsh, it was painful, it seems like he remembered the past.

To such Cezary, Vitaly called out.

[I already know your personal history. It was a very terrible one. It was also my fault. I'm really sorry. However, it truly surprised me that you are a Slayer, and also a Variant— — and to take revenge on Judal. But, that's not something that will make me happy. Rather, that will make me sad]

– ? Nee-san, what are you saying— —

[Even in this form, I'm happy to be **together** with the man I love— —Judal Harvey. If you try to destroy that happiness, no matter if you even are my brother, you will be no more than my enemy]

– ...enemy? I'm, your enemy?

[Yeah. If you take revenge on my man— —Judal Harvey]

– Don't joke with me!

Cezary shouted loudly.

– This isn't my Nee-san. She's a fake! Are you just trying to confuse me by making me fall with that!?

[Unfortunately, I'm real. If you are saying that you don't see the reality, then I have to give my approval to Judal]

– Approval?

[My approval to kill you, Vassily]

– Hahah, hahahaha!

Cezary laughed loudly.

– I knew it. That’s not my Nee-san. I’m a Variant, you see. Assassin after assassin, I’ve defeated them all. Against the woman over there, nor even to Judal, I won’t lose! Nee-san wouldn’t say such a stupid thing like that. Yeah, by killing Judal, my revenge will be complete. I’ll get my brilliant life back by killing Judal!

Cezary started to move in order to kill Judal.

– Judal-sama!

Shouted Neveah.

However, Judal didn’t move a step from there.

– It’s alright. Nothing’s going to happen.

Judal said towards Neveah.

Then, he continued his words.

– You sure, Vitaly?

[Yeah]

Vitaly nodded.

Then two shadows appeared from behind the broken window glass

– ...huh, what the!?

Feeling their presence accompanied by murderous intent, Cezary looked back.

One of the shadows set an attack there.

A woman wearing a black habit—

—It’s Maruko.

– There were more assassins!

She swung downward the sickle that she grasped firmly in her hands towards Cezary.

Despite becoming confused, Cezary tried to stop the blow with his sword.

In that precise moment.

– Wha—

Maruko's eyes shone golden.

(No way, those eyes...)

——A proof of being a Variant.

– Guh!

Cezary tried to brush away the sickle, but the result was reversed.

The sword was swept aside, and Cezary lost the balance of his body.

And there, a girl identical to Maruko, Luka, approached her sickle.

But Cezary didn't notice her either.

And of course, her eyes were also dyed in golden color so——

– Wha——

The neck is being seized by Luka's sickle.

He finally seemed to notice it.

No, he did notice it.

Perhaps it was happiness for those who didn't get it.

Far from returning the armor of the head, he had no time to regret about cancelling that part.

Despair and fear were reflected in his eyes.

——It was an instant.

And, with a plop.

The head of Cezary flew, then fell and rolled.

Subsequently, the torso also fell, and the carpet dyed red.

Naturally, the armed state has been cancelled.

A woman's voice echoed there.

– Thank you very much to you two for your hard work.

What the, since when was she in that place?

That voice belonged to Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III, the Pope of Puritaria,

who was wearing a white soutane.

She stood outside the hole that was opened in the room.

– Cezary Gravin. I am truly really sorry. You were a hindrance to my plan— —

Serivia moved her feet to the side of the collapsed Cezary, made the sign of the cross in front of her chest and offered a prayer.

– Son of God, rest in peace.

Turning her head, she asked Judal.

– Is it fine if I leave to you to clean this mess?

– Of course.

– Maruko, Luka.

The two people who were called approached the side of Serivia.

– If you excuse us.

Serivia and her followers jumped off from the broken window glass.

While her figure was trembling in fear, Neveah could just stare motionlessly.

– Shinshishō! Shinshishō!

It was around the morning of the day before the final match.

In response to the sound of the door being knocked with a *TON TON*, Hayato opened the door of the room.

It's Touka who's standing there in kendo uniform.

She doesn't have her usual sword in her hand, but a bamboo sword for training.

– Good morning, Shinshishō. Have you just wake up?

That's what Hayato heard who was in a shirt and shorts.

– No, I have already got up. Other than that, what's the matter? Coming to me from the morning— —

– I was told by Charlotte that I can resume special training from today. So, I

have been doing practice-swinging since morning, but I also wanted to hit——. Say, Shinshishō. Can you help me with my training after lunch?

Touka's eyes were enthusiastically shining. But today is a rest day.

He has been told that he can do whatever he wants until the time of the strategy meeting at night, but of course, if it is within the scope of not affecting the *vital* and *energy*.

Training is also prohibited.

... Be that as it may, he's Touka's assistant.

He thinks that there's no particular problem, as long as it's done with a bamboo sword——.

– I'm sorry, but today I have things to do that will take a while.

– I see, that's too bad...

Losing strength, Touka dropped her shoulders.

She looks quite desolated, she felt like celebrating her return.

– Well, I guess...

– What is it?

– Once I finished that thing to do——from evening to dinner, I can help you. But I can't do intense things though.

In an instant, Touka's expression shone brightly.

– Thank you very much Shinshishō! I don't mind that! Well then, I'll do a little more of practice-swinging!

– Pay attention to the pedestrians.

– I know!

Just before getting on the elevator, Touka raised the hand that was holding tightly the bamboo sword, and swung it doing *buzz*.

(She's really in good health, huh)

Spontaneously murmuring, Hayato closed the door.

(...okay now, I have to get ready to go out...)

He was about to do that just now.

Going to eat lunch somewhere and then head for the thing to do.

Hayato immediately changed to his uniform and left the room.

– Kyaah!

The moment he opened the door, he heard a scream.

When he saw her, it was Sakura that was standing there with her eyes rounded.

– Hayato-kun, what are you doing!?

– What are—more importantly, why are you standing in front of my room?
I mean, even Karen is—

Karen was standing next to Sakura when he looked.

– Good morning, Nii-san.

– Yeah, good morning.

For now, he greeted.

– ...Hey, Hayato-kun.

– Wha-what is it...?

Hayato was agitated, because at the same time he was trying to talk, Sakura caught the sleeve of his uniform.

– Isn't today your day off? Then, would you like to have a date with us two?

Then, Karen said.

– Because of that, we came to pick up Nii-san. Why won't we go look around all sort of things after eating lunch in the city together?

– So that's the reason.

Hayato understood why they were in front of the room.

But—

– I'm sorry.

Hayato escaped from Sakura's hand, pulling the arm that was grabbing his sleeve.

– From noon, I have business to do for a while.

– ...business? What type of business?

– Yeah, tell us!

– Well, that's...

To Sakura who knit her eyebrows in suspicious, Karen bent herself forward to press the question.

Because of that, Hayato is overwhelmed.

But he can't speak about the business to Karen, not to mention Sakura.

As he was wondering how to explain it, another girl came along there.

– Hey, Hayato. What on earth are you doing with those two?

The line of sight of everyone is directed towards that voice.

Standing in front of the elevator in the hall is a silver-haired girl in uniform.

It's Emilia Hermit.

– E, Emilia, why are you here?

It's the entry of the worst situation.

Hayato's impatient.

– I came to pick up Hayato. That way we can go to have lunch together.

– Oh, then that thing you had to do was...

Staring, Sakura did a sidelong glance at Hayato.

– ...eh, it was that? So, because Nii-san and Emilia-san have a promised date, our invitation is——

– Date? Hayato and I?

Emilia showed a surprised look when she heard the words of Karen.

– ... are we wrong?

– I thought of having lunch together at the hotel cafeteria. Besides, it's just that Hayato and I agreed to do that, since I also have some things to do after this... we didn't promise to have a date, right?

– Yeah, since I have some things to do later.

– Are Nii-san and Emilia-san's business something different from each other...?

– If it's the case, then what's Hayato-kun's business? No way, are you going to have an *incognito* date with Carol?

– Eh, is that so, Hayato!?

– You are wrong!

– Or were you seduced by a female Slayer of this country? Or is she perhaps an ordinary fan? If that's true, then I'll never accept it!

– I'm telling you, nothing of that is true!

Hayato declared in regard to Sakura, and continued.

– Apart from that, what's the errand of Emilia?

– Eh!?

Emilia was shaken and astonished and quickly removed her line of sight and continued speaking.

– Well, that's... a secret, you know.

The bashful Emilia hung her head.

Her cheeks were a little dyed in red. She felt embarrassed, and somehow, that could be misrepresented when looking at her.

– That's somewhat suspicious.... Maybe is an affair or something?

– Eeeeh, an affair? Is he a companion? Maybe Douglas-san?

– Why not! He was completely defeated by Maruko of Puritaria, but he was a little cool there. Originally, he was the fiancé of Emilia. Wood half-burned is easily kindled!

– Incredible! That's *romance*!

– No, a super no. And it will never be.

Emilia calmly put a tsukkomi on Sakura and Karen who are excited.

– Umm...

Anyway, what are they talking about in this place?

Time is of the essence.

– For the time being, why don't we have lunch, all of us?

There's enough time for it.

Then, after eating lunch with all of them.

Hayato managed somehow to convince Sakura and Karen to visit the neighboring city by themselves.

– It's here...

Hayato stopped his feet before the jewelry shop.

The purpose of visiting this shop is to pick up an item that he reserved.

His birthday came right away after New Year.

Hayato got a present from Emilia.

[Excellent Sweet Set of Gudenburg]centered on the famous *Lemon Pie* that Hayato ate and liked in Gudenburg.

– What do you think, Hayato? Have you remembered the old days?

– Yeah.

It reminded him of ten years ago—

In the public performance on the outskirts of the old town, they ate this *pie* standing side-by-side.

Emilia often brought that to him, because he said he liked it.

Due to that, Hayato told Emilia.

– Yeah, I remembered.

Saying happily, Emilia continued.

– Then, when you ate this *pie*, did you remember the promise that we would have an international marriage in the future?

– *Spits out! Cough Cough!*

He can't stop coughing.

To his surprise, the pie was obstructing his throat.

– ...I, really did that promise with you?

– You don't remember?

– Those memories, I haven't remembered that well...

– Ehehe, it's a joke .

– Come on, stop joking...

– Ahaha, I'm double sorry. But, what if the marriage was true?

– Well, that's...

– Ahaha, your face is red. Hayato's cute.

There are still places where the memories are hazy, to the extent that Emilia makes fun of him with that kind of jokes.

Still, Hayato remembered the present that he received at that time, he was very happy for that, and to give her his appreciation— —

He thought that he should get a suitable return gift, but it's very difficult to decide on which one.

What's the thing that Emilia wants, and that is special for her?

As a result of thinking about it, the first thing he came up with was the ice cream they ate together in Gudenburg.

However, to give her the ice cream of the stall vendor, there would be no way other than to bring that shopkeeper. It's impossible to think realistically, and it would be meaningless if it's an ice cream of another shop.

As the consequence of suffering from trouble, Hayato remembered.

The first day they came to Calbrera Island.

When Latia got a ring from Fritz who dropped the target practice.

Emilia wanted so much that ring.

(A ring, huh...)

Hayato tried to make use of the PDA with which he hasn't become experienced when operating it., and looked for the same ring.

As it was a limited item, the very same article doesn't seem to be available anymore.

Even though it was in the auction, he somewhat differed to buy it.

Although it was an unopened article, it's because he felt bad giving an item that once belonged to other people, so it was like handling an item that wasn't from him.

While in the middle of that search, Hayato found a similar ring.

It's not made in commemoration of the tournament, but the shape is the same.

(This is it!)

Apparently, it seems that he can order it from the *net*.

However, there's one problem.

The size is necessary for the order.

Hayato doesn't know the size of Emilia's ring.

Hayato consulted Fritz and asked Latia, so he ordered in the size he was taught a week ago.

So, it's supposed to be ready today.

(I'm really glad to have it in time for her birthday...)

Hayato arrived in front of the shop. Since he ordered from the *cybernet*, it's his first time entering the store.

Women were the majority inside of it.

Hayato's the only man.

He stepped into the store and head towards the counter.

There was a young lady in her suit with her hair tightly fixed.

– Excuse me, I am a person that did a reservation...

Hayato presented the PDA with the reservation table displayed.

The young lady confirmed it,

– Kisaragi Hayato-sama, correct? Please wait a moment.

After she lowered her head, she went inside the counter.

After a minute.

The young lady came back, with a white ring case.

– Please confirm it.

She opened the case and presented the ring in its interior to Hayato.

Hayato picked it and confirmed it.

It looks exactly like the one Latia got from Fritz, as he saw on the *net*.

But, there's a one big difference.

Inside the ring it doesn't say World Martial Arts Tournament, but 『Emilia』, the name of the person that this will be gifted is etched.

(I'm sure that she will be pleased...)

At least, he doesn't think that she will be disappointed.

Hayato took the ring and returned to the hotel.

Of course, today it's not the day to give the ring.

The day after the final match is over.

The departure ceremony on February 14.

The birthday of Emilia Hermit, who's also Emilia Gudenburg.

Chapter 5: Final Match *Ability of the Pope*

Emergency Alert

[Come now, the day of the final match of World Martial Arts Tournament's Team Battles has finally arrived! Is it Puritaria team that will stand at the top of more than 50 countries and organizations——or will it be Little Garden team!? Like everyone, I, Carol Caroline, I am looking forward to it, it can't be helped!]

With Carol's announcement, the excitement of the audience seats was about to reach the climax.

The spectators were quite excited at the time of the entrance of the opening ceremony and with Claire's first entry in a match, but those aren't comparable to this.

Up to now, these were the best cheers in their lives.

Only that, as one would expect, he was nervous, his body was trembling.

It was there that Claire noticed it.

– We have come this far, so this is not the place to be losing your nerve masenwayo.

That's right, she's was calling out Hayato.

– ... I know.

He answered, tightly clenching his fists, and suppressed the tremors of his body.

The last strategy meeting that was held last night.

Hayato remembers the words that Claire said.

– To become the champions, to succeed the will of all the defeated Slayer teams——to not disappoint everyone who lost against us, we will definitely win masuwayo!

Regarding that, Hayato nodded and said [Of course].

This is not the place to be intimidated.

– You guys too, have a proper determination desuwane.

– Yeah!

Latia cheerfully answered.

The rest of the members responded like her, gathering their voices.

Everyone is ready, their preparations are already in place.

It doesn't matter the match format.

Their faces express that they will fight with all they have.

– Then, I'm going masuwa.

Claire left the waiting space to the last draw lots.

Great cheers.

It's Pope Serivia that came out of the waiting space of the Puritaria team like Claire did.

The stands are shaking fiercely due to the appearance of the representatives of the two teams fighting in the final.

– It is an honor to be able to fight in the final match in this way.

When they mutually arrived at the center of the battlefield, it was Serivia who spoke just now.

– Likewise.

Claire holds her hand, it's a handshake.

Thousands of shutter sounds dominated the stands.

Continuing, Carol's announcement flows in the stadium.

[And now, it's the lottery for the game format. We start with Serivia-san, press the button please!]

– I have the presentiment that it's going to be a <<3 vs 3>>.

Serivia said, selecting the number that was on the device handed over by the official.

The fourth vertical row on the large *vision* installed in the *stadium* is brightly illuminated.

The number chosen is ④.

– Is that the prediction of the <<Prophet>> desuno?

– You might say so.

–

Claire pressed the button on the device that she received.

The number selected by Claire is ①.

The fourth vertical row——

A panel corresponding to the first horizontal row is opened.

[The match form is <<3 vs 3>>! It's <<3 vs 3>>! Surely the final is going to be a confrontation where the best 3 of each team will participate!]

Along with Carol's announcement, who was also shown in the large *vision*, great cheers came out from the stands.

– You truly are a <<Prophet>> desuwane.

While listening to Claire's words, Serivia smiled sweetly.

– With this, my turn won't come, right?

At the same time the match form was decided, Latia murmured with disappointment.

– I'm counting on you two.

– Yup, I'll do my best.

Emilia replied, looking to Latia.

– You too Hayato, give it all, okay?

It was already reported from Claire at the strategy meeting held last night about who will participate in all the match formats.

As the match format is <<3 vs 3>>, the members participating from Little Garden are Claire, Hayato and Emilia.

They were selected by <<LiZA>> and approved by Charlotte and Claire.

– Don't you dare to lose.

Calling him out, Krovanh taps Hayato's shoulder.

– If you lose, I'll make fun of you with all my heart.

– ...Hayato, do your best.

Following Nakri, Nesat also calls him out.

– Yeah, I'll do my best.

– Well, it can't be helped if we lose with these three.

That's what Fritz said.

– Kisaragi Hayato, Emilia Hermit. Don't be a hindrance to Claire-sama. Are we clear?

– We know that by the way.

Emilia said, answering to Erika as if she was jesting them.

– We won't be a hindrance to the President, and we will absolutely win.

– A good reply.

As if she was waiting for those words, Liddy shows a smile.

– But, don't overdo it. Follow the instructions of Claire-sama.

– Yeah yeah, we know already.

– Kisaragi Hayato, Emilia Hermit— —are you ready desuwane?

Claire, who came back to the waiting space, called them out.

– Yes, I'm ready.

– Of course, I'm at my 100%.

Following Hayato, Emilia answers.

Because of that, Claire showed a satisfying smile.

Carol's announcement is heard along with great cheers in the stadium.

[Finally, the time has come. It's the entrance of the contestants of the final

match of <<3 vs 3>>!]

– Alright, let's go.

It was the entry of Little Garden.

According to the staff's instructions, Hayato and Emilia appeared in the battlefield, with Claire in the lead.

[Now, let's introduce the participating members, starting with this person!]

The figure of Hayato was the first to be displayed on the *vision*.

[He took two magnificent and glorious victories at the short distance category of [100 mts. run]and [200 mts. run]at the s-Sports competition that took place before the start of team battles, he is the young genius of Little Garden——Kisaragi Hayato!]

[Kyaaa——h! Hayato———! Good lu—ck! !]

[Nii-san please do your beeeee———st!]

The voices of Sakura and Karen followed the announcement of Carol.

(Those girls...)

Hayato raised his hands to respond to the cheering, but because of those girls, he unintentionally had a wry smile.

And almost at the same time.

Carol was at her wit's end in the broadcasting seat.

(Come on, those two are...!)

Carol cuts off the microphone and stares at Sakura and Karen who are making noise next to her.

– Hey you two, be a little more *pro* and be quiet. Besides you are revealing your voices. I haven't introduced you yet!

– Ahaha, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

– I'm sorry.... I unintentionally went with it...

– But, don't you think that it was inevitable? Songs are our main occupation, we didn't say that we were *pros* as an outsider commentator*.

***TN: I don't get the use of 門外漢の解説役, so this might be wrong.**

– Sakura, do a professional job until you receive your money.

Souffle Clearrail is the president of the office to which Sakura and Karen belong.

She's also an engineer, and because of her experience, she was invited to do the commentary together with them.

– I know that already. I'll do it properly.

– If so, be quiet.

– Thank you, Souffle-san.

Saying that, Carol switched on the microphone.

The announcement resumes.

[Then, let's introduce the next team member. The next team member is this!]

Emilia's figure is showed on the *vision*.

[Her controllable special armament sure attracts the attention, and her popularity is suddenly rising to the maximum! How far can that ability of hers go? The secret weapon of Little Garden still enveloped in many mysteries——she is team member Emilia Hermit!]

When Emilia waved one of her hands combined with Carol's announcement, big cheers came from the stands.

– Emilia-sama!

– Princess-sama, please do your best!

– Good luck, Emilia.

Etcetera, the voices she heard, she knew them.

– What the, why are they here?

In the audience seats, not only she recognized the Slayers of the Army of Britannia, but also Kilfelthar, her *maid* Kate——moreover, the first in line are the staff of the palace, and the brother and sisters of Emilia.

Apparently, all of them have come together to cheer for her.

– ...or perhaps I should say, don't say "princess". That's a secret...

Emilia shrugs off her shoulders.

There were cheers for Emilia not only from there, but also from other places.

As Carol said in the announcement, the attention as well as her popularity are on the rise.

The fans of Emilia are increasing a lot.

However, compared to Claire, there's no way to express that the difference is evident.

[And now, the last person for which you were waiting for!]

The moment the camera changed direction to Claire, the announcement of Carol is swallowed by cheers that were like rumbles in the ground.

The popularity of Claire is to that extent.

[Really, really amazing cheers! It is not an exaggeration to say that she is the *number one Idol* among the contestants of this tournament! *Perfect Queen*, <<Guardian of Roses>> *Rose Guardian* and many other names that she has, you all know her——she is the Queen of Little Garden, team member Claire Harvey!]

Loud cheers and flashes as many as the stars hit Claire.

Still, she wasn't affected in the slightest.

Everyone thought "as one would expect of her dignity".

(It's truly incredible)

That's what Hayato thought about that.

Claire keeps elegantly walking towards the center of the battlefield while responding to the cheering of the stands by waving her left and right hand.

[——with that ended, now let's meet the three team members that will have to face Little Garden team. Next is, the entrance of Puritaria team!]

Changing, what was showed on the giant *vision* are the Slayers of Puritaria team who are still in front of the waiting space.

At the center is Serivia, with Maruko on the left and Luka on the right.

Among the three people who started to walk, the first one who was zoomed in by the camera is Maruko, who's walking to the left.

[In the three matches that she has participated in this tournament, the battle time has not reached three minutes! The name employed is <<Strong Wind>>—she is the team member Strong Wind Maruko!]

Maruko doesn't respond to the cheers.

She moves her feet as if it was natural to do so and stands next to Serivia.

— What a plain girl.

Sakura muttered with an uninterested looking.

The impression didn't change even with Luka who entered next.

[Following with the presentation, their appearance is the same, the weapons are the same. And, their strength is almost the same— an exact resemblance of team member Maruko, her twin sister. She is the team member Luka!]

As the announcement shows, her reaction is the same, the difference is that she's standing on the opposite side of Maruko, with Serivia standing between them.

Her expressions are the same, they don't change at all.

It's almost as if they were machines.

Nevertheless, Puritaria's cheering party that played a central part as believers, continued to cheer for them.

[And now, the last is—]

Then, the cheers got bigger.

It wasn't because Carol induced the tension.

It was because there are many people who have been waiting so much for her appearance.

[Although her sober face is hidden by light clothing, this is the first time showing her appearance, thus, there are many people who are looking after

her! I am one of those too! Wrapped up in mystery, She is the Pope of Puritaria——the <<Prophet>>, the participant Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III!]

With the cheers of the other two against the three of Little Garden, the ones from Little Garden were overwhelmingly bigger.

But, the cheers for Serivia are identical compared to Claire——

No, they may be more.

Even so, like Maruko and Luka, Serivia never responded to the cheers.

She just looks to the front, heading towards the center of the battlefield with a dignified attitude.

[As you all know, Pope-sama has never appeared in a match at this tournament. What kind of battle will she show us? I am so looking forward to it! Without anything else to add, the entrance of the participants of both teams is over!]

In the center of battlefield, Little Garden team and Puritaria team are standing up, facing each other.

There, Hayato looked around the *stadium*.

It's crowded as ever.

(Wh-, what...?)

Hayato found a familiar group in the audience seats.

Yamato branch of Warslan Company——.

Kirikagure Yumina, Tsuzura Mirai and Kurumi Sango who belong to Motomatsu Base.

He can see the figure of Shinonome Mika, the commander who scouted Touka and Hayato to turn them into Slayers.

(Everyone is supporting me...)

Looking at the authorized people space on the upper row, Claudia and Douglas are there——besides, he were able to see the figures of the Slayers with whom he fought so far.

Also, this morning, he got in touch with Ryouko, the administrator of the institution where Hayato was born and raised, and Ryuusei, the master of the sword.

Ryouko is supporting him together with the children of the institution.

He gives his thanks although there's a time difference.

– You have to win, to show the world the name of the Kenzaki Style. If you do that, I can make a lot of money by answering interviews and I might get popular with women as well.

Those were the words of Ryuusei.

This is his peculiar way to encourage him, so Hayato, as his disciple, of course that he understands him.

By the way, Emilia said that she got a phone call from his father, the king of Britannia.

Although he can't come to this place, it seems he told her that he is rooting for her.

She also heard he is conveying that to Hayato too.

(I really have to do my best, isn't it?)

Let's fight without feeling ashamed of everyone who support us.

Hayato strongly resolved that.

– Hayato-san.

– Ah, yes!

Hearing Serivia, Hayato returned his eyes to the front.

– In this final stage, where I can battle Hayato-san, Emilia-san and Claire-san—this is also the guidance of God.

– The promise has come true before the team battle begins, I am relieved masuwa.

– As I said before, you do not need to go easy on us. It is fine to come with all your strength.

– Yes, of course desu.

Serivia loosened her mouth and smiled.

Five minutes to start the match.

In the broadcasting seats, Carol began to introduce the special guests.

[Well, as for this final game we have special guests, three people who came to these broadcasting seats. We start with the manager of the diva Kirishima Sakura, who's also an excellent Hundred technician, she is Souffle Clearrail!]

[Thank you for introducing me. My name is Souffle Clearrail from Sakura Project. I am sorry for the discourtesy of Sakura and Karen just now]

[Don't worry. It is I who should say so. Speaking of them, now is their turn. *Oriental Wizard* Kirishima Sakura and *Little Little Witch* Kisaragi Karen, who showcased a wonderful song at the opening ceremony of this competition!]

[Go for it, Hayato-kun! I'm Kirishima Sakura!]

[Please do your best, Nii-san! I'm Kisaragi Karen!]

Laughter was leaking from the stadium where the voices of the two echoed.

– Those girls, good grief...

Feeling embarrassed, Hayato scratched his head.

– Hayato-san seems to have a cute cheering party, isn't it?

– ...although I have to say that one of them is my younger sister.... Besides, the cheers of Serivia-san were amazing.

– I truly appreciate that. To respond that encouragement, we cannot lose.

Serivia looked back and said to them.

– Maruko, Luka, get ready—

They didn't reply, nor did say the keyword to deploy.

Following the words of Serivia, they just created a sickle.

A Hundred of the Phalanx type. Its name is <<Judgment Sickle>> *Judgment Scythe*.

– Now if you please.

– Oh, yes.

Answers Hayato.

– Here we go masuwayo.

Following Claire's declaration, the trio shouted 『HUNDRED ON』together.

Hayato has *Hien*.

Emilia has *Arms Shroud*.

Claire deploys *Alisterion*.

– Serivia-san, you won't deploy?

– It is because I can deploy it like this. However——

The audience seats——.

No, the whole world became speechless.

It's because Serivia thrown off her hat.

It was the first time that she exposed her unpainted face in public.

Hayato and the others who knew her didn't lose their mind.

– Why are you surprised? With this is obvious that is hard to see what is in front of me and it is difficult to move properly.

– We-, well, if it's okay with you...

– Then, let's start with the fight.

At the same time Serivia said that, the body of Hayato trembled.

It was because he felt a strong *energy*.

At the same time, a change has occurred to Serivia.

A pair of wings appeared on her back——

[No way, are those that thing!?!]

Carol from the broadcasting seats raised a loud voice, blowing away the commotion of the audience seats.

[Surprising, for Pope-sama to remove her hat and thin clothing to show her face.... Moreover, she is super beautiful, super beautiful indeed! Just like an angel! I'm saying that because of the wings that appeared on her back! What do you think, Sakura-san!? Serivia-san is really like an angel!]

[Yuup. She's way too beautiful]

That was the response of Sakura.

[Besides, her boobs are big too. I'm worried about Hayato-kun, he's talking so close to her from a while ago. Maybe she is attractive to Hayato-kun?]

Karen gave a loud voice after hearing those words.

[Perhaps this is the arrival of a new rival to everyone!?]

[That possibility is high. Hayato-kun is cool after all]

[...hey, you two. Right now, we are on a live broadcast so...]

Carol interrupted, exasperated.

But neither Sakura nor Karen withdrawn.

[So what? This is more important than that!]

[That's right, this is more important!]

[Aah, yeah. Do what you want. Then Souffle-san, let's leave aside Karen-san and Sakura-san...]

[Yes, I'm really sorry...]

[No, don't worry, other than that, I have something I would like to ask. It's about Little Garden team and Puritaria team. Who will have the superiority? And how do you think that this final match will advance?

[Honestly, that is a difficult question. Considering all the people who tried to see this match, they are already aware of the ability of Little Garden's participants so far. The abilities of Maruko and Luka of Puritaria team are also high. Although that may be something favorable, I think that the match will advance with the superiority of Little Garden team. The ability of the 3 Slayers who are participating is outstanding. But...]

And, Souffle added a few more words.

[Depending on the ability of Pope-sama, I think that they won't be limited]

By the way, the response value of Pope Serivia is equal to Claire.

However, it's only a numerical value on the surface.

Souffle doesn't say it, but she's also a [Power of God]—

She analyzed that there's a high possibility that she's hiding the ability of the Variant.

But, that's also the same for the members of Little Garden.

[In other words, they depend on Pope-sama?]

[Something like that]

[By the way, the final odds of both teams are antagonistic, Little Garden team's chances are 2.2 and Puritaria team's chances are 3.5, so Little Garden team seems to be judged slightly superior. Even in the survey of the program, the voice predicting the victory of Little Garden team is superior with a little over 60%]

There again, a remarkably big cheer occurred.

[Oh my, we are one minute away until the 13:00, that is when the match starts. The Slayer festival that has been held for almost a month is on its final match, at last. Who will grab the victory? Little Garden team, or Puritaria team? —]

Silence for a few seconds.

And while everyone was catching their breaths, the buzzer that begins the game rang.

[And now, the final match of the World Martial Arts Tournament will begin!]

The crowd waved with great cheers, and while many flash flashed, Emilia and Claire flew to the left and right.

Both deployed floating batteries in the air.

They deployed them near Serivia, Maruko and Luka, doing a concentrated fire.

Most of the beams rain incessantly on Serivia.

[If it's a <<3 vs 3>>, then we, and you of course, will be aiming for Pope-sama desu. I want to ascertain her ability]

That was the tactic that Claire told last night.

Emilia added a few words of advice.

[Don't hold back because she's Pope-sama, assault her with your sword with everything you have. I think she's an opponent who's several levels than me]

[Got it]

He understands that Serivia is strong.

However, when it's a female opponent, Hayato naturally holds back.

(But, today I won't do that!)

As Emilia says, Hayato tries to attack Serivia with all his strength.

— Haaaaaaa—h!

Hayato had that conviction.

But—.

— Ehh!

At the very last moment, Serivia moved backwards, she dodged the attack of Hayato.

Her body fell backwards all of a sudden, as if she was floating in the air.

Hayato swung *Hien* non-stopping, in order to reach her.

But he couldn't catch Serivia again.

Serivia jumped to the back and did a somersault, rotating in the air, and like the floating batteries, she created six light spears around her body.

— ...kku!

One light spear, then another one is launched, Hayato deploys an E *barrier* to stop them, destroying them all.

(Somehow, I could endure the 6)

Fuu, with a sigh, the voice of Serivia came.

– As expected of Hayato-san. But, I won't let you take a break.

– E——h?

When they noticed, Maruko and Luka were rushing to Hayato with their *Judgment Scythe* that they had readied.

– Hayato!

– This is not the place to be stupefied masenwayo!

Emilia applied a strong injection to *Arms Shroud*, dropping back Maruko. That brought down Maruko.

Almost at the same time, Claire fired shots from the floating batteries in succession to the course of Luka, stopping her movement.

With that, Hayato was saved.

– *Thank you.* (He said it in english)

– It's fine to leave your words of gratitude for later desuwa. We will go from here masuwayo.

Those words of Claire became the starting signal of Little Garden's counterattack.

Emilia and Claire manipulate the floating batteries and try to snipe Serivia.

However, she precisely invalidated their attacks, using the E *barrier* at key points and destroying the floating batteries with light spears deployed around her body.

Even with the attacks of Hayato, she evades them nimbly and skillfully, and counterattacks him with spears of light.

Emilia whispered at his ear, dropping to the side of Hayato who landed.

– Hayato, this time let's do a simultaneous attack. I'll destroy all the spears of light. Look for a gap and set up an attack.

– ...got it.

Emilia turns the floating batteries into particles——

She creates circular rings with *Arms Shroud* like those used by Nakri and tries to assault Serivia.

– This time is Emilia-san? No matter who comes, that won't change.

Emilia dodged one, two, three light spears that were released continuously.

And once landing.

She kicked the ground again and slashed at Serivia.

There, a spear of light is released.

Emilia destroyed it with a circular ring.

(Now, two are remaining—)

Looking at Hayato and Maruko, who were locked sword to sword, the latter was blown away by the loaded *energy Hien*.

(Now I can go!)

Emilia throws the circular rings.

And shouted after destroying the remaining two spears of light.

– Now, Hayato!

– Understood!

Hayato was already trying to slash from the back of Serivia.

Serivia noticed the existence of Hayato, and turned back.

There's no sense of danger in her expression.

– A good *idea*. But, my attacks, aren't only spears of light, you know?

– ...eh?

Looking at it, there was a huge sickle in the hands of Serivia.

– Can you bear this?

When she swung downward the sickle, a mass of energy shaped blade swoop down on Hayato.

– Hayato!

Hayato received the blade of *energy*, and was thrown to the battlefield.

– You okay, Hayato!?

Emilia approaches to the side of Hayato and speaks to the fallen Hayato.

– Yeah, I think so...

He was able to deploy an E *barrier* at the limit.

So, he managed to endure it.

(Even so, she's really strong...)

Hayato muttered in his mind.

He thinks that her attacks can't be read at all.

Yesterday, Claire told that the shape of Serivia's Hundred is a Shaman type.

Its name is <<Will of God>> *Providence*.

But, as a matter of fact, she looks more like a *magician* rather than a *shaman* if you think about it.

Because there's no limits.

That is, because there's no doubt that she's a <<Blood of God>> *Variant*.

Otherwise, that kind of tricks couldn't be done.

– Well then, shall we go back to the game?

With that said, Serivia raised her left index finger into the sky.

– What on earth is——

Immediately after Emilia muttered.

Feeling a strong *energy* over her head, Emilia took an evasion posture, rolling over the battlefield.

– Oh, that was close...

She barely did it.

Being able to dodge the lightning of *energy* that came down, Emilia felt relieved.

– That of now, it's the thunder during the terrorist incident...

– ...yup.

Emilia nodded and continued.

– Either way, all the lightnings seem to be done by Serivia-san.

– You two, this is not the place to talk masenwayo. Our problem now is what are we going to do with those lightnings desuwa.

Not only Emilia, but also Hayato and Claire are being aimed, the lightnings keep falling continuously.

– Certainly, the President is right.

To stop the lightnings, they have no choice but to change the stance of Serivia.

Emilia thought so, and by creating a big sword with *Arms Shroud*, she tried to swoop down Serivia.

However, Maruko set a strike there, and she couldn't do it.

– ...tsk!

Emilia attracts Maruko and appeals to Hayato and Claire, despite clicking her tongue in frustration.

– Hayato! Prez! Stop Serivia!

– Even if you tell me to stop her...

Hayato does his best efforts to avoid the lightnings, and Claire launched an attack on Luka who was about to release an attack against Emilia, expecting to entertain her.

But even in this state, she looks for a gap with her floating batteries, and she was able to fire a shot, it was hardly effective on Serivia.

In that case——.

(There's no choice to get over this situation but with the ability of the Variant)

When Hayato thought so, Claire shouted.

– Wha, what the desuno, is that?

Claire's line of sight is aimed at the sky.

A sphere of light of 50 centimeters approximately in diameter was there.

– What is, that...?

Hayato reflexively murmured.

Is the sphere also releasing strong *energy*?

Even now, it's getting bigger.

– If we get hit by that it won't be a laughing matter! We must do something!

Emilia shouted.

They already don't know whether it can be stopped by an *E barrier*.

They think that it might have enough power that even the battlefield itself will be destroyed.

– Hayato, Prez! Let's go with all our strength. If we don't do it, we'll get hurt!

– I was thinking the same thing you just said deshitawa!

Claire attacked, firing beams with her six floating batteries around Luka.

Approaching Hayato by the side, and standing back to back, she said.

– Kisaragi Hayato—let's go with full armament masuwayo.

– Roger!

Just after Hayato answered.

BEEP BEEP!

A noisy siren reverberated in the stadium.

– What on earth is this?

Claire muttered, blinking her eyes in surprise.

For real, what happened?

Hayato also looked around the *stadium*.

– Hayato, look at that!

Emilia shouted.

The line of sight goes towards the large *vision* of the stadium, where the letters <<DANGER>> are dyed in red, blinking.

– No way, a Savage has appeared desuno!?

– That seems to be the case.

Serivia landed on the ground and vanished her wings.

There's no sphere in the sky anymore.

Probably she herself made it disappear.

[Information arrived from the tournament headquarters just now!]

Carol's confused voice echoes through the *stadium*.

[The supposition about the existence of Savage at 100.000 kilometers from the earth was confirmed. The Slayers on Calbrera Island change immediately to Variable Suit and be ready to intercept! I will repeat it once more— —]

– As one would expect, it will be impossible to continue the match desuwane.

Claire cancels the armament.

– Yes, that is what it looks like. Maruko, Luka, this has finished.

In response to those words, Maruko and Luka vanished their *Judgment Scythe*. Following them, both Hayato and Emilia cancelled their armament.

The six finalists were in the center of the battlefield and decided to wait for instructions from the tournament headquarters.

Exactly an hour ago the final match of Puritaria team vs Little Garden team was interrupted.

Around 200 Slayers staying on Calbrera Island were gathered in the food and drink space inside the stadium.

The strategy meeting took place there because of the notification from the side of the United Nations.

Not only the participants of team battles are there, but also Shuemei, Noah and the participants of single matches are there.

The Slayers that aren't there it's because they are guarding around the

stadium as a countermeasure against terrorists.

By the way, the spectators, islanders and those who came to work as a staff of the tournament have already been evacuated to the shelter under the stadium.

Evacuation has also finished for those who originally worked on Calbrera Island.

– Oh, the meeting is about to start.

Fritz said so because the surrounding Slayers made some noise.

Then, Emilia called out.

– Oh, but if it isn't Charo?

Ahead of Emilia's line of sight— —.

On the side of the huge monitor on the wall of the food and drink space was certainly the *Main Technologist* of Little Garden and the person in charge of the construction of the *stadium* for this tournament— —the one standing there was Charlotte Dimandius.

Like always, she has a candy in her mouth.

– Err, everyone.

With an introduction, Charlotte began to talk.

– I'm the *Main Technologist* of Little Garden, Charlotte Dimandius. Despite of the <<Arrogance>> *annihilation**, it has been decided that I'm going to take command of the Savage Interception Strategy this time, so please treat me well. To begin with, look at this please.

TN* I really don't get it, but that's the reading in katakana that was left there.

What is displayed on the monitor behind Charlotte is a footage of outer space.

– This was 10 minutes or so ago.

The Slayers who watched it had their breaths taken away.

A distortion suddenly appeared in outer space, and a large amount of Savage

appeared from there.

– By the way, this is the third group— —. The first group and second group seemed to have appeared in the same way before this, and now they are approaching the earth at a considerable speed. The time for the first one to approach is 3 hours and a little. To be honest, we don't have much time. Therefore, I want each person to move to their designated point immediately. The means of transport are ready. The designated points have already been reported to the representatives of each country and organization. The same with the instructions. That's all from me. I wish everyone good luck— —.

After Charlotte finished saying so, the group of Hayato immediately approached her.

– Your mission is to defend the area of Calbrera Island. So, you don't need to move. Although I say that the majority of the Slayers are going to be in this place, it is expected that most of them will be dispatched in the district of this area.

– That's because there's a possibility that Savage will fall in the vicinity?

It was Fritz who asked her in return.

Charlotte expressed a smile.

– Nope, that's not it. It's to gather the Savage in this vicinity.

– ...to gather the Savage?

– Yeah— —.

Charlotte replied the doubt of Hayato that jumped out of his mouth without thinking.

– We'll use Kirishima Sakura and Kisaragi Karen.

Chapter 6: The Strategy Begins *Duty of the Divas* The Champions of the Tournament

- Wait, we are going to bring the *Air Ride*?
- That's the instruction of the President. It's for the sake of time.
- Was there any kind of prediction that a Savage's attack would occur during the tournament?

Hayato asks, surprised.

- If we assume so, then didn't Liza kind of predicted it? Or, was it Pope-sama?
- You guys, get ready. This isn't the moment to talk, understood?

Liddy said so, she already had the *Outer* and the *Air Ride* equipped on her.

- Understood.

In answer, Emilia also equips the *Air Ride*.

Hayato also equipped it in the same way.

- ...even though, it's a great strategy. Using the songs of Sakura and Karen to draw the Savage to this place...

- Liza said that it could be possible, but will this really do?
- As a matter of fact, we won't know until we try it, that's what Dr. Charlotte said. Of course, there's the matter of safety too. Only that, don't lose your focus——
- Of course.

Regarding Liddy, Hayato answered firmly.

Currently, the ones with *Air Rides* that are on Calbrera Island, combined with all the organizations, are only Hayato, Emilia and Liddy.

The mission given to those three is to protect Sakura and Karen who will sing at the most prominent place in the *stadium*.

– Well then, let's go.

Following Liddy who said so, Hayato and Emilia also flew into the sky.

At that time, and after changing clothes to their Variable Suit, a communication from Charlotte entered to Sakura and Karen who were waiting at the wing of the battlefield.

[The preparations are ready. Move to the center of the battlefield]

– Let's go, Karen-chan.

– Yes.

They joined their hands, and walked out.

The voice of Carol, the narrator of the World Martial Arts Tournament, arrived on their backs.

– You two, sing with confidence, okay?

– Carol, you...

– Why are you here?

They looked back with a surprised expression.

– People have already evacuated to the *shelter*, you know.

– Isn't this a crisis of the earth? Even I want to do something about it. That's why I decided to cooperate with you.

– Cooperate you say... don't tell me, you are going to sing too? That's—

– To be honest, I want to do so.

Interrupting the words of Sakura, Carol laughed in self-deprecation.

– But, because I'm not a Slayer, then singing wouldn't make any sense, right? You are under the influence of the Variant Virus, isn't it?

– Why would you...?

– Carol-san contributed with the experimentation.

Souffle appeared from the control room and answered Sakura's doubt.

– Whether the song of an ordinary human will reach the Savage or not.

In other words, it seems that it was explained at that time.

The secret of Sakura's song.

The story of the Variant.

– But, it was useless, you know. My song didn't reach the Savage. It's very frustrating.

– Carol, you...

– I'm annoyed, I'm losing in popularity against you. Now that there's a global crisis, it means that there's nothing that I can do.

Saying that, Carol continues.

– I, I want to protect my fans. If the people who listen to me disappear, then there's no point in singing. So, even now, I asked Souffle about how I can cooperate, even if it's the smallest thing. And because of that, I'll help you with the sound.

– Thanks, Carol.

– I'm expecting a wonderful stage, you know.

Carol smiled and patted Sakura's back.

– Now, go.

– Yup. Let's go, Karen-chan.

– Yes.

Sakura and Karen joined their hands again and started to run, then reached the center of the battlefield.

[Guys, can you hear me? The stage is going to be created in a few moments. Be careful to not fall]

– To not fall you say...

When Charlotte's communication ended, the battlefield began to shake in a short and repeated way.

– Wawah, what, what is this?

Karen raised a surprised voice, noticing that her feet were elevating.

(Come to think of it, that...)

Sakura recalls that similar equipment was used when Judal Harvey was giving his speech at the opening ceremony.

And after being around 30 seconds in that condition, a part of the battlefield raised above the ceiling.

The circular sky stage is completed.

– It's amazing, this is so high...

[What do you think? It's the best stage, isn't it?]

– Seeming that we can fall, I'm a little scared...

Looking down, the legs of Karen are trembling.

– Moreover, won't we be in plain sight from the Savage?

Without thinking, Sakura makes a bitter smile.

It can't be said that there's no possibility that the Savage will fall in this place while they are singing or that they won't be targeted by a bombardment.

[Don't worry about that. The prince that's going to protect you will arrive soon]

– Prince?

– Wait, is he...

Sakura and Karen looked around restlessly.

Then, flying in the sky using the *Air Ride*, 3 approaching figures come into view. Looking at the figure of the man within them, Sakura and Karen had a bright facial expression.

– Nii-san!

– Hayato-kun!

[Exactly. Kisaragi Hayato, Emilia Hermit and Liddy Steinberg are expected to protect you. With these guys, do you feel safe now?]

– Yup!

– Very safe indeed!

[If so, we are expecting a *live* worthy of its name]

The following voice they heard is from Souffle.

[Sakura, Karen, are you ready? Fight with your songs, fight with your feelings!]

– Of course. Karen-chan, here we go— —

– Yes!

– <<Arrival of the Diva>> *HUNDRED ON!*

– <<Deployment of the Sacred Amulet>> *HUNDRED ON!*

They are in their respective Hundred— —

<< Spinning Story of a Fairy >> *Fairy Fairy Tale* and <<Miracle of the Sacred Amulet>>*Divine Card* are deployed.

Carol's voice reaches them there.

[It seems that you are ready]

The voice heard after that was once again from Carol.

[Okay then, let the <Strategy begin!> *music start!*]

[Charlotte-sama, there was movement!]

It was around the time when *part A* was about to end.

Communication arrived from Little Garden to a room where Charlotte is on Calbrera Island.

[The majority of the predicted falling points of the Savage have been changed to Calbrera Island. In addition, the current predicted falling points of the Savage who will fall in a couple of hours later have also changed to Calbrera Island!]

It's the voice of Chris that she heard, followed by Mei Mei's report.

[Dr. Charlotte. This is what you meant?]

– Yeah, exactly.

Nodding in satisfaction, Charlotte continued.

– I don't know the means but, it might be in response to the songs of Kirishima Sakura and Kisaragi Karen that the Savage are adjusting their falling points. It appears that the strategy was a success. Immediately let the Slayers around Calbrera Island to take an interception stance.

Charlotte switched the line and decided to contact the Slayers.

[Informing to all the Slayers in the surroundings as well as the ones in Calbrera Island. The strategy for the first stage is a success. Within a few minutes, the first group will get to this area. Once you deploy your armaments, enter in an interception stance. Repeating it one more time—]

– Apparently, the first stage of the strategy was a success.

Latia said, listening to the communication from Charlotte.

– Listening to the songs of Sakura and Karen, a lot of spectators are coming from the space, huh. As it was told by Dr. Charlotte, we must go with our deployed armaments at once.

– Yup.

Fritz, Latia, Noah and Shuemei, as well as Tsudura Mirai, Kurumi Sango, Kirikagure Yumina and the other Slayers of Yamato, along with Douglas, Claudia and the rest of the Slayers of Gudenburg, together with the Slayers that participated in the Savage subjugation battle, each one of them deployed their Hundred.

Hayato and the others who are using the *Air Ride*, are looking at the state of the situation from above the roof of the *stadium*.

– It seems that it's beginning.

It's exactly as Emilia muttered.

When they looked up at the sky, they saw the Savage falling to the ground.

Slayers with long range guns begin to shoot the Savage without stopping.

– We will also cooperate!

Liddy shouted.

Following her, Hayato and Emilia fired shots from the two turrets on the *Air Ride*.

Most of the falling Savage seem to be normal type.

However, there seems to be huge types as well, such as giant type and dreadnaught type.

In a simultaneous communication from Claire, Hayato understood that.

[Shuemei, Noah and Alphonse are going to mainly fight the common type. If you think that it is dangerous, request help immediately or run away desuwa]

Then, he heard the voice of two girls.

[I am Wendy Velvet, member of the Army of Liberia. We will *support* them so they will be *phine* (*fine*).]

[I am Aly Harlech, I belong to Al Salaam. Latia Saint-Émillion asked me to support Little Garden]

[Thank you very much to you two masuwa. Our comrades will be under your care masu]

[Understood!]

[*Roger*]

They also heard the communication from Kirigakure Yumina, a Slayer belonging to Motomatsu Base, a branch of Warslan Company in Yamato.

– Mirai, Sango. We'll also focus on the normal types.

– Huuh, the normal type desuno!? Defeating the big types and dreadnaught types will give magnificent results, so after entering Little Garden, I could immediately be put in the *Selections*—

– Sango, it's impossible, forget about it...

Mirai muttered, displeased.

There are also Slayers of the Army of Britannia a little away from that place.

– Douglas-sama, are you really going to fight?

Claudia was anxiously asking to Douglas who deployed his armament.

– This is a serious affair. I will do it as long as I can move my body. However, I can't be rash. Claudia and everyone will mainly focus to defeat the large type and dreadnaught type. The frustration in the semifinals that we couldn't get to the finals, we will release it here!

– Understood!

Of course, the Slayers of other countries and organizations also started to move and commenced to fight with the Savage.

A time has passed since that.

– ...what's, that...?

Without thinking, Hayato stopped bombarding the falling Savage.

It isn't a Savage but, a stone-like sphere came down from the sky.

Around 10 of them fell to the ground.

– Could those be *Variable Stones*?

Stopping the bombardment as well, Emilia said.

– No, they look different.

Without a moment's delay, Hayato advocates a different opinion.

Looking it closely, it was a perfect sphere.

And, different from natural objects like meteorites, these look like artifacts.

Similarly, Tsudura Mirai, a Slayer belonging to the Motomatsu Base of the Army of Yamato, was wondering that, looking at the second group of Savage that was falling.

– Really, what kind of things are those? I have a bad feeling——

Tilting her head, she looks at the spheres that look like white eggs that fell nearby.

– So, the experience tells me that the victory goes to the one who makes the first move——

Sango, who had just slaughtered an ordinary Savage and was free, turned into

particles the 4 floating batteries of her Dragoon type Hundred <<Crimson Dragon Knight>> *Drag Red*— —.

She creates Buster Cannon, and aims at a mysterious sphere.

— Wai-, Sango! Don't be hasty, sto— —

Mirai comes to stop her, but it was too late.

— Teeee— ——h!

The beam emitted from Sango's Buster Cannon hits spectacularly the mysterious sphere.

The result, it got cracked...

— ...huh? Wha-, what is that desuno? That's a!?

Out of nowhere, Sango raised a surprised voice.

It's because of what appeared from the sphere, it was a huge fly-like Savage with 4 wings on its back.

As expected, that thing floated in the sky while making a buzzing sound, then started to bombard from its mouth to the ground.

— See, I told you so!

Mirai uses her Shooter type Hundred <<Ice Pillar of Exorcism>> *Hamanotsurara* to try to shoot the mysterious flying thing with arrows of *energy*.

(But, from here down it won't be easy to aim at the core...)

Because the core is on the head like all the other Savage.

It's complicated to aim at it from the ground.

— But, I can't stand here without trying!

Shouting, Mirai fired an arrow of *energy* towards the lower body of the *big fly* type Savage.

She thought that, if the body leant forwards because of it, then she could destroy the core with a second arrow.

But the *big fly* type Savage didn't receive damage.

It developed a wide area *barrier* around its body and pulverized the arrow.

And on the contrary, now the *big fly* type counterattacks towards Mirai.

– ...kh, a close call.

Mirai dodged the bombardment released from its head, her breathing was leaking.

The *big fly* type aims for another Slayer, the bombardment continues.

Sango looked at the situation, and muttered while her body was trembling.

– That, was my fault desuno?

– No, I don't think so.

Yumina immediately defended her.

– Look carefully around us. Even if you didn't do it, those *big fly* type would have born anyway.

– Oh...

A *big fly* type was born from another egg that fell in a different place and started to bombard.

Everyone is trying to cope with them, but it seems that Mirai's blocking barrier as well as the arrows fired do nothing.

Vexing, Yumina grind her teeth.

Even if she throws the sickle of *Orochimaru*, it's difficult to aim at the core from the ground.

For Latia and Nakri is the same.

– Damn, those are really a nuisance!

Even if Nakri throws *Dio Varga*, they dodge them nimbly, they are very hard to hit. That also applies to Latia's knuckles.

– As far as I can see, those annoying things were born from the eggs.

That said, Hayato was staring at the situation of the battle from a distance.

He can see that the ground troops are at mercy of the *big fly* types that born

from the eggs.

However, shooting a beam from this place won't do any good.

Standing there, he received a help request from Latia.

[Hayato, can you guys take care of the flying things? They are a hindrance, there's nothing we can do]

– Liddy-san, what shall we do?

Hayato asks Liddy.

– Let me see...

Liddy was troubled, and thinks, knitting her eyebrows.

The result is that she couldn't decide by herself.

She opened a communication with Claire and asked her.

– Claire-sama, we have received a support request from Latia Saint-Émillion. They want us, the *Air Ride* unit, to destroy the fly-like Savages that are flying in the sky.

[...roger desuwa. In fact, those *big fly* types are quite troublesome and can't be defeated by bombardment. If you conclude that you can support them, then I would leave them to you masuwa]

– Understood.

In answer, Liddy said to them.

– It's as you heard. I will destroy the *big fly* type on the continent side. Kisaragi Hayato, you take care of the Calbrera Island side.

– Roger.

– What should I do?

– You are going to wait for orders here. Your *Arms Shroud* is best suited for defensive battle than us.

– Understood. But if those things get too close, I'll be moving from here.

– Now let's go, Kisaragi Hayato.

Hayato and Liddy started to move.

With only them, the war situation changed completely.

They approached the *big fly* type Savages using the *Air Ride*.

While diverting them with the beams, *Hien* and *Midgard Schrange* destroy the cores one after another.

– I wonder if we destroyed all the *big fly* types...

Hayato muttered, while confirming the surroundings.

He can't see a *big fly* anywhere anymore.

Because the first stage is completed, he could relax.

[Hayato, this is bad!]

A sudden communication from Emilia.

Hayato checks his left and right.

However, he can't find the figure of a *big fly* type.

Once again, a communication from Emilia enters.

[Down, down!]

Those words finally reached Hayato.

A super dreadnaught type Savage on the ground opened its head wide in order to bombard him.

Emilia got impatient, of course, since Hayato is being targeted.

(This is bad!)

The bombardment was fired.

Hayato managed to block it with E *barrier*.

– Whoa, that was close...

If it wasn't because Emilia called him out, it would have been a direct hit.

And that eventually would be a serious matter.

It ended up accelerating his heart, he was really glad.

[...Hayato, are you okay?]

– Yeah, thanks to you.

Looking, Emilia was standing to the side of the Savage that was aiming at Hayato a few moments ago.

Immediately after the bombardment, she approached the Savage— —.

With the spear created with *Arms Shroud*, she destroyed the core.

– ...hey, it's no good if you leave your position. Sakura and Karen are in danger and— —

– But, there are no *big fly* types at the moment...

Looking there, passing by the side of Karen and Sakura, he noticed that a *big fly* is drawing near.

It appears that one was born from an egg just now.

– This is dangerous!

Hayato accelerates quickly, and moves to defeat the *big fly* type.

– It's fine, Hayato-kun!

Sakura shouted.

Then, Hayato stopped moving.

– It's fine you say... what do you mean?

The *big fly* type was already approaching the side of Sakura and Karen.

He can't catch the intention of the words of Sakura.

Sakura said to the confused Hayato,

– This young one, it just wants to listen to our songs near us. That's why, it's fine. It's a fan of us.

Now that she mentions it, it surely doesn't seem to attack Sakura nor Karen.

It wasn't even showing interest for Hayato nor the other Slayers.

– But, in case that something happens...

Hayato can't help worrying.

If something happens, he won't be able to save them.

– It's as Hayato-san says.

Together with those words, a thunder that fell from the sky hit directly the *big fly* type.

Then it falls to the battlefield.

A spear of light was thrown to the core.

– That just now...

Hayato is dumbfounded.

Sakura and Karen were equally dumbfounded.

– It didn't seem to be harmful, but the other party is a Savage. Don't show gaps.

The voice of the woman was thrown again.

It was from a woman who wore a white *sutan* standing on the roof of the *stadium*, around 50 meters from the stage.

– Pope Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III...

Serivia said to the surprised Sakura.

– I understand your feelings. However, that is something we cannot afford to do now.

–

It doesn't matter who they are, if they listen to their songs, and if they like them, then there's no mistake that they are important fans for them.

Sakura thought that that thing was everything but a monster.

But Serivia's words were reasonable.

– There are still some Savage that are closing in so we will deal with them, you resume your songs at once ——now, the invasion continues.

Receiving the words of Serivia, Sakura asked.

– ...Karen-chan, can you sing?

– Ye-, yes. Of course!

Karen and Sakura.

Their concert continues.

– Serivia-san is merciless...

Without thinking, Hayato mutters.

– But, if Serivia-san protects them, then we don't have to worry about them, we can fight.

Certainly, Emilia's words were true.

He's concerned about those two, but he doesn't think that Pope-sama is going to fail.

Looking closely to the ceiling, there are four people with particularly strong response values, they are Maruko, Luka, Matthew and Johanne, the Slayers of Puritaria.

There will be no problems.

Liddy seemed to notice them too.

[Kisaragi Hayato, Emilia Hermit—leave the guard to the guys of Puritaria, we will join the suppression of the Savage on the ground]

– Understood.

In answer, Hayato started to move with Emilia.

The resume of the songs rises the morale of the Slayers.

The songs are gallant, and somehow give an inspiring feeling to fight.

– Somehow, listening to this song, makes me feel as if my fatigue was blown away.

Saying that, Latia smiled.

– It does really look like that. I don't feel like losing at all.

Smiling in the same way, Fritz nods.

That's also the same for the other Slayers.

Nobody talked about being tired.

They don't think about losing.

To save this world, and mankind——

They fight with all their strength to take the victory.

But, the limits were about to come to the duo that was continuously inspiring the Slayers.

It's been an hour and a half since the *live* began——.

Although it's during the battle, it's like an ordinary *live*, but singing without a MC*.

***TN: This might refer to Master of Ceremonies?**

Not only the physical strength of Karen, but also the expression of Sakura are showing signs of fatigue.

– This is terrible!

Carol shouted, watching the two people from the control room.

Karen's legs were staggering.

If this keeps like that, Karen will collapse from the waist to the stage.

Carol stopped the music, and asked Karen.

[Karen-san, are you okay?]

Following Carol, Sakura also asks.

– You okay, Karen-chan? If you are at your limit, I can continue by myself...

– No.

Swinging her head to the left and right, Karen continued.

– I still can sing. Nii-san and everyone are also fighting. I want to sing with Sakura till the end!

– ...got it.

Karen stands up, grasping the hand extended by Sakura.

There, a communication from Souffle entered.

[Sakura, Karen, do you hear me? The attack of the Savage seems to have ended already. From here, they will end defeating all the Savage that are in this place. So, this is the last song. Can you do it?]

– Of course!

– Absolutely!

Looking at them who gathered their voices, Carol said.

[You both are really cool! Okay then, we will resume the *live*!]

– Claire-sama, it looks like Krovahn and the others have floored a super dreadnaught type. What remains is another super dreadnaught type—

Hayato and Emilia are in the middle of the battle with that super dreadnaught type.

– Now, Hayato!

– Uoooooooo—h!

The last brandish of *Hien*.

Kisaragi Hayato destroyed the core of the super dreadnaught type.

– ...we, did it?

As soon as the song is over, Sakura asks Souffle.

<<Yeah, Hayato-kun did it>>

– Hooray!

– We did it!

Sakura and Karen were delighted, they embraced each other.

– It's done, we managed it somehow...

Haa, haa, while his shoulders were shaking, he adjusted his posture using the *thruster* of the *Air Ride*.

There, Emilia got closer to him.

– Good job, Hayato.

– Did it end with this?

– The Savage, at least. But, the fight continues.

– ...what do you mean?

– The continuation of the finals.

– Oh, right...

Hayato had completely forgotten about it.

– But, I used too much *energy*, so I can't keep fighting.

– That's the same for me.

Tehe, Emilia stick out her tongue.

– Thinking about the consequences, won't make this the President angry?

– I don't think that may happen.

Emilia replied immediately.

– Winning the tournament is also important, but the main duty of a Slayer is to save the Earth from the Savage——and to save mankind. So, I say that there's nothing wrong with it.

[I hear you masuwayo]

– Uwaa, Prez!

Next, they heard the voice of Mei Mei.

[Thank you for your hard work, everyone. This is the International Integrated Army Headquarters. We have confirmed the annihilation of all the Savage. Please return to Calbrera Island. Repeating once again——]

– Hayato, shall we go back?

– Yeah.

– This, this is really a wonderful result.

From the rooftop of the stadium, Serivia muttered, staring at the mass of dead Savage.

– There is no doubt that humanity has grown so much, it's on par with the

Savage——no, that they could fight more than that, it is truly amazing.

The smile she expresses while saying that, it's quite a deep emotional one.

— With this encounter, we got a considerable number of cores. And with this, not only Project Lunaltia, but also the time expected to arrive is drawing near, isn't it?——

Serivia looks up at the night sky with a distant look. There, the moon and many stars were shining.

— Eh, we, Little Garden team won the championship desuno?

Serivia nods and replies to Claire that has a dumbfounded look.

— Yes, as you said.

An hour and so had passed since they confirmed the inaction of the Savage.

After finishing the subjugation of the Savage, the Slayers, who have changed to their uniforms from their Variable Suits, were gathered at the food and drink space for authorized people within the stadium.

Unlike before the sortie, there's no anxiety.

On the contrary, most of them have a cheerful smile.

Even though it was a large-scale invasion and on top of it with unknown Savage, there were no casualties, nor severely wounded, so a thing like that was expected.

Once the words of gratitude from Charlotte who was the commander ended, and as a matter of course, they were talking about what to do for the finals.

Even if they start from the beginning, it was impossible to do it immediately.

If so, then it would be tomorrow——

Or, if it was done two, three days later, will they wait for the *energy* to recover?

What are they going to do with the format and the members?

They were about to begin a consultation if they should do it as it was.

Serivia raised her hand and announced her withdrawal.

– Are you really sure? Rather, it is our side that should withdraw...

Claire said that in the match before the interruption, they were at the mercy of Serivia, they were pressed by her, and that the *energy* consumption of the members of Little Garden team was in fact intense.

It doesn't matter if they are resuming the match tomorrow, because Hayato, Claire and Emilia are in a state where they can't fight.

– I am telling you. The battle results of the Slayers of Little Garden who didn't take into consideration the interruption of the finals and fought to save humanity are incredible. It is very different from us, who thought about resuming the finals, and only took the role of protectors. I was very moved by that, and I thought that Little Garden is worthy of taking the championship. Don't you think so too? Those who think so, please applaud— —

At first, it was sparse.

Commencing with Claudia, Douglas and the Slayers of Britannia, only the Slayers who were fighting against the Savage and were saved by the Slayers of Little Garden applauded.

But gradually it got bigger— —.

– It's decided.

Those words of Serivia were released with a smile. Claire couldn't understand at all what she was thinking. However, this isn't a situation to insert an objection. They were driven to that situation and had no choice but to flow with it.

Epilogue

The day after the subjugation battle.

After the closing ceremony at the stadium, that was held at 3pm on February 14th.

A closing party is ongoing with all of those who participated in team battles and in the subjugation battle of the Savage, as well as the rest of the Slayers that remained in Calbrera Island.

The place is the hotel that Hayato and the others are staying, and the one where they went to the first friendly reunion. Now it's being used as a celebration party for the anti-Savage battle.

Speaking of the tournament, Little Garden team won due to Puritaria team's withdrawal, but that doesn't mean that voices of dissatisfaction didn't come from the spectators.

But, the war results of Little Garden from the anti-Savage fight and the devolution of the seat fees——in addition to Judal's announcement, where benefits will be added to preferential ticket seats for the next tournament, which is planned to be held in four years, made the angry voices to calm down.

– Although I cannot say that this went safe due to the invasion of the Savage and the terrorist incident, it is thanks to all of you that we finished all the program of the tournament. I am truly grateful to you.

The closing party, which started with Judal's greetings, was already in the middle of its development.

Then, in that situation.

– Claire-sama... did something happen?

After all the greetings of the authorized people ended like always, Claire was with her head hung down at a corner of the meeting place, looking absentmindedly.

It's very rare for Claire to be in such a state.

That's why Erika was worried and called her out.

– Eh, ah.... No, not at all...

That was the answer of Claire.

Her appearance looked like as if she was denying something.

Because of that, Erika attempted to pursuit further into it.

– Rather than telling me that, why you looked like you had a depressed expression...?

– Is that so desuno? If so, I guess it is because I am a little tired.... The semifinals, the finals, and the anti-Savage battle, although these things took place in different days, they were a series of battles in the end.

– Then, don't push yourself, and return to your room—.

– Starting from tomorrow I can take a good rest, so there is no problem.

– If that's so, then I won't insist...

As a matter of fact, she's tired.

Leaving that aside, it's the thing that became a heavy burden of Claire, just before this meeting began.

She was summoned by her brother, Judal Harvey, so he could explain the contents of a conversation.

There were no bodyguards.

It was a conversation of just two people.

– Congratulations for the championship. You did a good job, Claire. With this, I'm one step closer of my objective.

They are in Judal's waiting room prepared at the hotel.

That was the very first thing he said to Claire who arrived at that place.

– I plan to move to the base in the moon as soon as possible. In this regard, I would like to have around 10 Slayers from Little Garden. Charlotte Dimandius too.

– It is quite quick, desuwane.

– Puritaria will provide money as well as working force. To Improve development without rest.

Hearing the answer, Claire inadvertently knitted her brows.

– Onii-sama, just one advice masuwa.

– ...an advice? About what?

– I don't think that you were careful enough about Pope-sama. I don't know that well what she is planning, nor how high her ability as a Slayer is.

She believes so after it was decided that Little Garden won the championship.

Serivia approached the spot of Claire, Hayato and Emilia and made a prediction.

– This time it couldn't be settled, but someday, I will fight you. I have that feeling. So, let's settle it at that time.

She doesn't get the intention of her words.

It was really a prophecy?

Will they really see her in the finals of the next tournament?

Or maybe, it's something else——?

– But, without Puritaria's power, it's impossible to do things quickly.

Judal continued speaking as he remembered something.

– Oh, I see. You fought that man——Cezary Gravin alias Vassily Tynyanov, but under the cooperation of Pope-sama, we dealt with him.

– Dealt with him...?

The facial expression of Claire becomes stern.

– What is that supposed to mean desuno?

– Just what it means. His purpose on life was to become a hindrance to me. There was a high possibility that he would become an obstacle in my future plans, so I had to eliminate him from this world.

– Doing such a thing, if this is leaked to the UN...

– If that’s the case, will you be quiet? Besides, there is nothing wrong with it. This is being carried forward as if they were dealing with a terrorist crime. We were really saved because the security was strict, and that we weren’t lodging at the hotel where we prepared that.

– ...!!

Claire asked Judal, while biting her lips.

– Onii-sama, why are you so impatient desu?

– You are just like mother.

– That’s—

– I don’t know how much time I have. I might be saved if new medicines are made in the moon, but I might die before then.

– ...are you kidding?

– I’m not kidding. It’s true.

–

Claire was lost for words.

Why will such cruel things happen around her?

His brother isn’t very fond to tell the truth, but that talk was enough to give weight to the heart of Claire.

– But if I could go to the moon, then that would be fine for me. For that reason, I’ll do anything. After that, if I die, then you can do whatever you like. In case Puritaria tries to capture the lunar base, and if there are Slayer troops that you are commanding, then you’ll be able to stop them.

– You saw the final match that we fought, right? How can you say so after that? To be honest, the strength of Pope-sama was far beyond our imagination wayo.

– But still, you guys— that Kisaragi Hayato and Emilia Hermit, they weren’t serious, isn’t it?

– We are of equal status in this regard desuwa.

– Besides, you will be going to the moon with me. Even Liza is planning to migrate to the moon within the year.

–

That's also in accordance with the plans.

Little Garden is like a test case of Lunaltia Base— —.

Without Liza, the power of Lunaltia Base would be insufficient.

– Anyway, I'll leave the selection of members to you.

From there, Claire has been worrying all the time.

If she goes to the moon, she will be separated from Kisaragi Hayato.

When she thinks that, her heart hurts.

It's painful and unbearable.

(I see, as expected I— —)

Claire confirms her own feelings.

— —Love.

She can't lie herself anymore.

To the point she can't endure it.

She fell in love with Kisaragi Hayato.

She remembers the thing while fighting with Cezary Gravin.

His Variable Virus exists inside her.

The moment she knew so, she was very happy.

Still, is there something left?

She wants to believe that there's something left.

It seems like a bond that links herself with him, she finds it lovely.

But, that may disappear someday.

If possible, she doesn't want that.

She wants him to exist forever inside her.

For that reason, he and——.

(What am I thinking masuno?)

Shake Shake, Claire shook her head to the left and right.

She mustn't think about that now.

The moon——.

Lunaltia Base.

(Should I ask Kisaragi Hayato if he wants to come to the moon together with me?)

Claire became unable to contain herself, she couldn't resist but to meet Hayato, and began to look for him.

Shortly before Claire started looking for Hayato.

The launching party with a line-up of Slayers was on its final stage.

After this, the members of Little Garden decided to do a celebration.

By the time it ends, it's very likely that the day has changed.

So, before that, you should do what you have to do.

Hayato searched for the figure of Emilia from inside the meeting place and tap her shoulder from behind.

– Hey, Emilia. Do you have a minute?

– Oh, Hayato.

Emilia looks back and answers. Then she turns to the front once again,

– I'm sorry, everyone. I got something to do.

– Ah, Emilia-sama!

– I'm sorry, i'll be leaving my seat for a bit.

Saying that to Claudia, Emilia leaves that place with Hayato.

– Just right in time. A little more and I was planning to look for Hayato.

– Is that so?

– Yup.

Nodding, Emilia runs.

– Please wait outside. I have something prepared.

– O-, okay...

Emilia who jumped out of the meeting place on a half run came back around five minutes later.

In her hands was a small paper bag.

– What is that?

– What's with that question. When you know about what it is.

Emilia puffed her cheeks.

Certainly, she's right.

– There are some public gazes here, shall we go that way?

Despite the embarrassment, what Hayato pointed out with his line of sight is the terrace on the mountainside, on the opposite side of the meeting hall of the friendly reunion.

– Yeah, let's do that.

Hayato and Emilia moved to the terrace.

– It's a bit cold.

– Ye-, yeah...

Is it because of that?

Emilia's distance was closer than usual.

It's a distance where shoulder and shoulder are likely to bump into each other by a slightly shake of their bodies.

At the same time, due to the fact that he was nervous, the heartbeat of Hayato's chest was accelerating.

– It seems that we'll catch a cold if we stay here for a long time, so I'm

handing this to you.

Emilia presented the bag that she was holding with both hands to Hayato.

– This is a present from me. Of course, it's a Valentine Day one.

– I-, I see.... *Thank you...*

– Take a look.

– ...okay...

Hayato opened the bag.

The chocolates inside are small, so you can eat them in a single bite.

There are many kinds of colors, and all of them have a diamond-like shape.

– ...this, is...?

– ...you noticed? They are modeled after our Hundred. Mainly Hayato and I.

Like she said, there are many red and light blue ones, but there are deep green and orange ones in there— in other words, some of them are modeled after the Hundreds of Claire and Latia.

– They are well made, don't you think?

– These chocolates, in what moment did you do them?

– The day before yesterday. After we lunch together with Sakura and Karen.

– Oh.... So this is the thing that you said you had to do!

– That's right. Come on, try to eat one.

– ...eh, here?

– I want to hear Hayato's impression as soon as possible. All of them have a slightly different flavor. Since the ones of the Prez are bitter, eat mine. Those are very sweet, you know?

– O-, okay I'll try it...

Hayato decided to eat one chocolate.

As he was told, it was one modeled after the Hundred of Emilia.

– You are right, it's delicious...

It was really sweet.

– Really? Yay! It's fine if Hayato eats me more, you know?

– What is with that way of saying it...

– Do it, do it ♪.

– But, because they are too good, I'll do it later. There's something that I want to give you too.

– ...Hayato is giving me something.

– This, a birthday present.

Hayato took out a white ring case from his pocket.

– I also received a present from you, and I thought in a return gift, so please accept it.

He opens the lid and presents it to Emilia.

– This is...

Emilia's eyes, seeing the contents, opened wide.

– It's the one that Latia received from Fritz, right?

– At that time, you wanted this, isn't it? That's what I thought. But, there's only one difference in it.

– Where would be that difference?

– Here.

Hayato indicated the inside of the ring with a finger.

There, in front of her eyes, 『Emilia』, and the date of her birthday, are carved.

– The rings for the commemoration of the tournament weren't available. Instead of those, I went for a custom made. Still, did you like it?

– ...of course that I liked it. There isn't anything better than this. Thank you, Hayato...

Tear drops emerged in the outer corner of the eyes of Emilia.

– I'm happy.... I really, really appreciate it, Hayato...

– Emilia...

Looking to Emilia who's overcome with emotion, Hayato was overcome with emotion too.

– ...ah, I'm sorry. This is not like me. It's just...

Emilia continued, wiping off the area around her eyes with the sleeve of her uniform.

– Can I try this on?

– Of course, go ahead.

Then Emilia elevated the ring from the case and passed the ring finger of her left hand through it.

– ...huh, that's n—

It seems that Hayato was about to say something, but he decided to not do it.

It was because Emilia was enjoying it a lot.

It would be insensitive to stop her now.

– Uwaa.... It's really wonderful, I'm happy...

Emilia raised her left hand, the one that has the ring, in the sky.

With the light of the stars, the ring shines beautifully.

– If so, it's the best that you received it like that, with pleasure.

Those words came from the bottom of the heart of Hayato.

– Hayato doesn't have one?

– ...huh?

– Don't men and women have engagement rings in sets?

– Well, engagement, you say, what are you saying—

Hayato didn't anticipated those words, he became speechless.

– Well, in the first place, this isn't that kind of type. As I said earlier, it was because you wanted it, and it doesn't go in the ring finger of your left hand—

– Ahaha, I'm joking, I'm joking. But, I'm really happy. This is the second time

that I got an accessory from Hayato.

With that said, Emilia took out the pendant from her chest.

Hayato bought it when we went to the Old Town of Zwei Island.

– You were wearing it?

– Don't tell me that you didn't notice?

– I thought that you were wearing something but not that. But it was indeed that one...

– Good grief, remember that you bought it for me.

– My bad, sorry.

...and so, there was a girl standing in a place slightly away from Emilia and Hayato who seemed to be having fun.

It's the Queen of Little Garden, Claire Harvey.



(What is this desuno?)

She saw that Emilia was just giving chocolates.

But in return Kisaragi Hayato gave her a ring.

Of course, Claire understands that that's not a return gift but a birthday present.

Still, the present is a ring.

Moreover, to put the ring that he gave on the ring finger of the left hand, as if...

(...I am overthinking it, desuwayone...)

She wants to believe so.

But——.

They are childhood friends.

There's a bond between them from more of a decade ago.

Thinking that way, it's inelegant to go before them.

She thinks that her existence won't be more than a hindrance.

(From the beginning, there was no room for me to enter between those two——)

(Besides, it's possible for them to be hooked on a love affair, as for me——)

There are a lot of things to do, for her sister, and for the world.

Claire turned her back to Hayato and Emilia, and while holding a bag containing handmade chocolates in her hand, she left that place.

Teardrops, different from what Emilia had, were floating in the outer corner of the eyes of Claire.

She wipes them with the sleeve, and makes a decision.

(I made up my mind shitawa)

(I will go to Lunaltia Base masu)

(With Nii-sama, and with Liza——)

Both Hayato and Emilia, of course they didn't notice her.

– Hayato.

– Wha-, what is it?

– I love you .

Emilia took Hayato's chest and pulled his body towards herself, and kissed his cheek.

– Listen, Vitaly. Good news.

[What's the matter? You're really cheerful, isn't it?]

Judal, who projected the figure of Vitaly on the monitor of the room, was quite in a good mood.

Sitting on the sofa, he spreads his hands in a big way, and continues his delightful words.

– Whatever, Claire gave me chocolates. I mean, how many years have passed since then?

[What, are you pleased with such a thing? Even if the other person is your sister, I'm jealous, you know]

– Hahaha, I'm sorry. By the way, this wasn't the good news.

– Judal-sama, excuse me—

Neveah poured *brandy* into a glass placed in front of Judal.

– Thank you, Neveah.

Judal took one of the chocolates from the bag and tossed it into his mouth.

– Oh my, it's very good. I thought that she was growing up as a tomboy, but she's a skillful cook.

He's saying that because the chocolates were handmade.

Judal poured into his throat the brandy poured by Neveah in one gulp.

Vitaly asks, with an exasperated expression.

[So, what is the good news?]

– Oh, right, I forgot that.

Judal picked again a chocolate with one finger and tossed it into his mouth.

– Claire said that she will go together with Liza and I to the moon. If Claire comes, then not only Little Garden, but also Slayers from other countries and organizations will do it as well. One less thing that I have to worry about.

Judal is really in a good mood.

He also drank it in one go the second cup of brandy that Neveah poured in it.

– What's wrong Neveah? Can you pour me a third cup?

But, Neveah didn't move.

– What is it? You won't pour another one?

Judal asks, because she became irresponsible.

– If you keep drinking too much, it will be harmful for your health. Shouldn't this be enough for today?

– Let me be, Neveah. You are acting like my mother.

Judal operated the PDA and made the figure of Vitaly disappear, then stood up and embraced Neveah, as if she was his mother.

– Judal-sama, what is this...

He continues his words, burying his face in her chest.

– A little more, and I can achieve my goal. You can do anything you want after that. That's something even you know about.

– ...Judal-sama...

Neveah was in a posture like she was holding him, and kept supporting Judal's body that was leaning on her.

–

A moment of silence that lasted for several seconds.

– ...Judal-sama?

– I'm sorry, without a doubt I drank too much. I'm sorry for causing trouble to

you.

Judal apologizes and smiles quite indifferent while separating from her.

– No, that was...

While her heart beats fast, Neveah returned the words.

But, she knows.

Judal isn't embracing her now.

But his first love, the woman in his memories.

In fact, he was embracing Est Steinbelt, his mother's substitute.

Judal said, giving proof of that.

– Anyway, all the preparations are ready. This year I'll head to Lunaltia Base and independence the moon—I will be the first president of the moon. For that purpose, I'll do anything. Because all my life has been for that—

In a pure white room there's a bed on the floor, a past middle-aged man lays there, his physique is good.

The half upper body on the bed is raised so that his head is raised too, and a device is attached to his head—and apart from the machine connected with several cables that extend from it, there's nothing else in the room.

The man opened his eyelids and muttered.

– Research completed.

Nobody would believe that he, who wore hospital gown-like clothes and that has a long-stretched bear is Bill Harvey, the president of Warslan.

When Bill removed the head device and operated the panel on the bed, the atmosphere in the room changed.

He brought in the outside air, the temperature of the room raised.

– Liza, at a certain degree is awake as well. What remains is, the Lunaltia Base of Judal.

He murmured again, going down from the bed.

— — — Linis — —.

That's the name of his loving woman — —.

Judal and Claire. It's also the name of Liza's mother.

— Soon, I will be able to fulfill your promise. Surpassing God, I'm going to meet you. So, please keep waiting.